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Tesla's Aspirations.

So much has been said of late regarding Nikola Tesla and his recent discoveries that the following resume, which appeared in a recent number of the New York Evening Post, will doubtless be of interest to the practical readers of the Worker:

"That the author of the multiphase system of transmission should at this late day be flooding the press with rhetorical bombast that recalls the wildest days of the Keely-motor mania is inconsistent and inexplicable to the last degree." This utterance from the Scientific American exemplifies the strong language coming from scientific quarters about the latest announcements of Mr. Nikola Tesla, and bids fair to mark the culmination of a long period of what may be called electric sensationalism. Another scientific journal, the Electrical Engineer, which for some years expounded Mr. Tesla's earlier work, has drawn back in alarm, and in a recent comment on one of Mr. Tesla's promises says it 'refuses point blank' to accept it in silence, and is 'willing to face the consequences.' The situation thus developed is of unusual interest.

"It is not until a review is made of Mr. Tesla's programme that an intelligent understanding can be reached of the attitude now displayed on this subject by the scientific press and by leaders of scientific thought, and of the resentment exhibited by the subject of their quiet criticism, who accuses them of desire to do him 'serious injury.' A representative of the Evening Post has made investigation of the matter, and the date now presented will assist the public in forming its own conclusions.

"At the time of the destruction by fire of Mr. Tesla's laboratory, near Bleeker

street, early in 1895, he was at work on an 'oscillator,' in which he sought to combine steam engine and dynamo in one machine, with immense economy of steam and gain in output of current. A completed machine was illustrated in the Century Magazine in April, 1895, with glowing comment by the author of the article. At that time Mr. Tesla had stated to friends that the machine would certainly be widely in use in New York city within six months. Mr. Tesla forthwith started new plans and a new laboratory, but no 'oscillator' has made its appearance. On the contrary, Mr. Tesla has given the name of quite another apparatus, of utterly different construction, having nothing to do with steam, and upon which he has laid great stress as to its merit in delicate electro-therapeutic work.

"Mr. Tesla also became engaged in perfecting vacuum-tube lighting, which, as early as 1892, at the New York Electric Club and other places, he had predicted would wipe out the Edison incandescent system in a year. In the New York Sun of November 21, 1898, Mr. Tesla stated that he had his system ready, but he limited its possible usefulness. It is not, however, on the market, nor has any one approached by the reporter ever seen it in commercial operation anywhere.

"As a development of his 'oscillator' experiments, Mr. Tesla further expressed his belief that the current would be used in telegraphy, and the New York Herald quoted him as follows: 'That it will be possible to signal all parts of the earth simultaneously, and that from the logical development of this it will be possible to signal the stars by electric disturbances here, I have no doubt whatever.' He claimed to be able by his 'oscillatory' methods to disturb the earth's electrical

charge, and showed apparatus in which this extraordinary phenomenon was alleged to be manifest.

"The discovery of the X-ray by Prof. Roetgen in 1895, and its announcement at the beginning of 1896, led to great activity on the part of such men as Mr. Edison, Mr. Tesla, Mr. Moore and others in the field of fluorescent and vacuum-tube lighting, and claims of one kind and another followed thick and fast as to what the ray was, better methods of securing it, new lamps, improved X-ray pictures, etc. But at the present moment, so far as can be discovered, not a single piece of Tesla special X-ray apparatus can be bought anywhere, and not a single theory advanced by him has received the approval of the scientific world.

"We next hear of bolder schemes. A few months later Garrett P. Serviss heralded in the New York Journal the fact that 'Nikola Tesla's latest contribution to science opens up one of the most surprising visions of man's future control over nature that the nineteenth century has produced.' This referred to an elaborate scheme for generating electric current at a trifling expense by Niagara power, saturating the earth with it, and spraying growing plants from electrified water tanks. In this way the nitrogen needed by exhausted soil was to be restored to it, and mankind saved from starvation. The most diligent inquiry fails to reveal the trial of any apparatus for this purpose, or the first public proof of the intrinsic value of the idea.

"To enumerate step by step all such marvels as these to which the attention of the public has been called, is impossible. In the New York World of Sunday, December 26, 1897, was a page article, headed 'Wizard Tesla makes the sun do man's

will,' and a picture showing a Tesla laboratory, with huge machinery, all operated by sunshine. The apparatus comprised reflecting mirrors, cylinders full of water, treated chemically by a secret process, 'which Tesla has devised,' and the inventor was quoted thus: 'I will say that the results so far achieved are all I desire. I am certain that the new apparatus will come into speedy and general use. The whole business will be so simply arranged that there will be no probability of its breaking down.'

"Inquiry in every quarter reveals, among electricians, an absolute ignorance of any apparatus of this kind, and reference was made at once by several of them to the famous failures of Ericsson many years ago along better comprehended lines of investigation, of which all the details were long since made public.

"In the New York World of October 31, 1897, a scheme was set forth, with cuts and a long statement by Mr. Tesla in the first person, to defend the human body from microbes and preserve the beauty of womanly and manly youth throughout life. 'I have made extensive study and experiment to the end of finding some means of cleaning the human skin of these deadly microbes, and I have succeeded in inventing a means by which it can be kept free from their ravages.' Part of Mr. Tesla's plan was the use of 'a battery I have myself invented. With this battery I have charged human bodies so successfully that microbes have been thrown off in a perfect shower, some of them being thrown as far as four or five feet.' The same plan was described, with variations, in the New York Herald, with the addition that paint could thus be cleaned from different objects, and that any skin disorder could be cured, although 'just the form of apparatus I am using I must keep secret for a time yet.'

"The present year opened with a suggestion, in the Sunday newspapers, by Mr. Tesla, of the way in which an 'electric subjugator' might best be devised with which to tame wild animals, but this he dismissed with brief notice.

"The war with Spain broke out, all the inventors were busy, and Mr. Tesla announced a plan for throwing an electric spark into the interior of a distant Spanish magazine and exploding it. Nothing, it is believed, came of that, as Mr. Tesla did not go to the front, and none of the many plans for destroying life and property suggested by the electricians, from Mr. Edison down, were ever tried. But Mr. Tesla was not idle, for he has just announced two new inventions, with which the Herald, Sun, World and Journal have been filled during the last three or four weeks. One of these deals with the transmission of power electrically by natural media. The inventor stated that he could

generate with ease and safety electrical pressures measured by millions of volts, carry this into the upper, rarified regions of the air, and then send it to corresponding receiving apparatus. The New York Herald of November 13th had this about it from a reporter: 'Tesla says his machinery works perfectly; that he has demonstrated the seeming miracle beyond all possibility of failure. He said to me yesterday: I will supply the Paris Exposition with Niagara's power. I will send it across the ocean without a wire. My invention is the crowning success of long years of thought and labor.' To hold up the apparatus required in the higher regions of the air balloons were suggested, and then, according to the Electrical Review, 'power from such sources as Niagara will become available in any part of the world, regardless of distance.' The electrical press in general has piled merciless ridicule on this scheme, and London Lightning speaks of it as so improbable as to be due either to an irresponsible reporter or an 'unhinged intellect.'

"Supplementary to this, and appearing within a few days of it, was Mr. Tesla's announcement that he had abolished war by a new dirigible torpedo operated by what is universally known among electricians as the Marconi wireless system of telegraphy, or in other words, he proposed to use Hertzian waves, traveling through space, to affect, as a relay a 'coherer' employed on a torpedo boat, and thus close and operate the electrical circuit on it. Guns were fired in this way, however, at the Madison Square Garden at the Electrical Exhibition last May, and floating torpedoes blown up daily in the tanks there to illustrate what might be done; and American army officers experimented last year in the operation of distant machinery, with the Marconi system, so that the idea is familiar and old in electrical circles, but all whom the reporter has interviewed say that the insuperable difficulty remains of ensuring the reliability of the delicate coherer and of preventing other adverse 'coherer' on the enemy's ships from frustrating at will the plans of those behind the attacking torpedo boat.

"Mr. Tesla announced in the Herald that this 'invention' must enforce universal peace at once, and he described England as reduced to nothingness and France as correspondingly jubilant. In the Sun of November 21st Mr. Tesla applied the idea to artillery, wiping out modern guns, and said;

"We shall be able, availing ourselves of this advance, to send a projectile at much greater distance. It will not be limited in any way by weight or amount of explosive charge. We shall be able to submerge it at command, to arrest it in its flight, and call it back and send it out again, and explode it at will—and more than this, it

will never make a miss.' In several interviews, Mr. Tesla has also expanded the possibilities of his torpedo boat, saying that 'this power can be exerted at any distance by an agency of so delicate, so impalpable a quality, that I feel I am justified in predicting that the time will come when it can be called into action by the mere exercise of the human will.' When interrogated about this metaphysical invention, Mr. Tesla has reaffirmed his belief in its 'possibility.'

"This is repeated in the Criterion of November 19th, and in the Herald of November 19th, Mr. Tesla expressing the hope that adverse criticisms have not shaken the faith of a journal in him, says: 'If I feel certain of anything, it is that I have given to the world an invention which will designate the beginning of a new epoch, and profoundly affect the relations between nations.'

"These latest declarations of Mr. Tesla seem to have strained scientific confidence in him to the utmost, and it is hard to find to-day any electric authority who does not believe either that Mr. Tesla's imagination has run away with him, or that close application to his laboratory has strained his good judgment."

A Great Victory.

Local Union No. 17 Secures the Passage of an Ordinance Against Bitter Opposition.

It is my intention in this letter to give you a brief review of the two years' persistent work and the success of No. 17 in having enacted into law an ordinance regulating the stringing of wires throughout the city of Detroit, therefore providing for better protection against accident and death to the men engaged in that class of work.

In our correspondence with other cities in regard to similar laws, we find that very few cities, in fact none that we have written to, have any laws regulating the stringing of wires. It is therefore for the benefit of those unions who contemplate similar action that we give our experience, but I do not desire to build up any false hopes by leading others to believe that it was an easy victory, for, on the contrary, it was achieved only after two years' persistent effort, and in the face of opposition that would have discouraged most unions.

In order that the ordinance may be better understood, it will be necessary to go back to the time when the Public Lighting Commission was formed some five years ago. The question was first submitted to the people of Detroit, whether they desired to change from the contract system of lighting the city to the municipal ownership of their own plant, and the vote was overwhelmingly in the affirmative.

The Legislature was then asked to amend the city charter to provide for the formation of the Lighting Commission, and, in order that the Commission might be free from the domination of politics, they placed the supervision of stringing of wires and everything else electrical solely in the hands of the commission. I do not admit the efficacy of that law, but it is not my intention to discuss that phase of the question at this time, so I will make no further comments upon it. Therefore it will be readily understood why the Public Lighting Commission is so frequently referred to in the ordinance and why it is placed entirely in their hands to enforce.

With the advent of this Commission (which, by the way, is composed entirely of business men and lawyers) a number of new rules and innovations were introduced that would revolutionize the then existing conditions and if allowed to continue would eventually decrease to a degree the ranks of the electrical workers and drain the funeral fund to such an extent that bankruptcy of the National Brotherhood would follow. As future events will show, we naturally objected to booming the undertaking business at the expense of the electrical workers. Chief among the numerous new rules that were introduced was one to prohibit the erection of what they termed all unnecessary poles throughout the city, and in order to carry it into effect they compelled the police and fire departments and, in some cases, the private companies, to string all their wires required after that date, wherever possible, upon the poles already erected belonging to the Lighting Commission and other companies. The consequence has been that the bare wires of the police and fire departments have been strung on the same arm and side by side with wires carrying alternating and other currents of a high potential. The danger to linemen in coming in contact with these live wires while handling the bare grounded wires of the other companies or vice versa and the ultimate results of such an action is too apparent to the experienced mind to require any further explanation by me. Then again the fire department erected their signal boxes on the poles on which their wires were strung, irrespective of who they belonged to or what other wires were strung on these poles, and in order to protect their drop wires from abrasion and damage from linemen's spurs they enclosed them in common gas pipe clear to the top of the pole. These conditions were allowed to continue until one fine morning we were aroused from our lethargy and brought to a realization of the danger we were placed in by the death of a lineman by coming in contact with one of those grounded pipes while attempting to cut a live electric light wire. The union immediately took

the matter up and appointed a committee consisting of Bros. Forbes, Snyder and Andrews, who petitioned the Common Council to draft an ordinance prohibiting the erection of these man-traps in the future and to provide for the removal of those already existing. Our petition was referred to the Lighting Commission for their advice, as they had full authority under the law over these matters. Their answer was to the effect that no ordinance was necessary, as linemen were always subject to more or less danger and to change the conditions we complained of would only increase the danger for the reason, as they argued, that a known danger was safer than fancied security. Our petition was then laid on the table.

Not discouraged by our first rebuff, we then appealed to the aldermen individually, and about a month later Alderman Thompson introduced a resolution requesting the ordinance committee to investigate the advisability of drafting the ordinance we asked for. We then conferred with the committee, who advised us to draft an ordinance to suit ourselves and submit it to them and they would act upon it. We immediately employed an attorney who drafted, under our instructions and suggestions, the following ordinance, which we submitted to the committee:

AN ORDINANCE to regulate electric wiring and the use of electricity.

It is hereby ordained by the people of the City of Detroit:

Section 1. That the Public Lighting Commission of the City of Detroit shall annually examine wiremen seeking to engage in that vocation (the term wiremen intending to and does hereby designate and refer to those who string, train or place electric wire on the inside of buildings and not to apply to linemen, or those engaged in stringing, training or placing wire on the outside of the buildings or structures), as to their ability to do such electrical work, upon written application for, and who apply in person for examination, and to such as pass said examination to the satisfaction of the Public Lighting Commission, a permit in accordance therewith shall be issued by the said Lighting Commission; said permit shall be issued in the form of a badge, which said badge shall be worn in a conspicuous place on the person of such wireman or electrical worker, while he is engaged in doing any manner of electric wiring or while engaged in making repairs to electrical wire or fixtures in any building or structure in said city of Detroit. And it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in doing any manner of electrical wiring or repairs to electric wire or fixtures, in any building without such badge conspicuously displayed on his person, while engaged in such work. Any wireman or electrical worker (not including linemen) who fails to conform in every respect to the rules prescribed by this ordinance, or who loans or transfers his badge to another, does thereby revoke his permit and it shall be the duty of the Inspector of the Public Lighting Commission to take up and suspend said person to whom said badge has been issued and report same to the Public Light Commission, who shall give said

person a hearing, and it shall be optional with the said commission to renew or revoke the said permit until the provisions of this ordinance are complied with.

Sec. 2. It shall be unlawful for any individual, firm or corporation to string or place any bare grounded wire, such as telegraph or telephone wires, on the same pole, stanchion or upright, with high potential wires without separating said wires carrying high potential currents from said bare grounded wires by a distance of at least eight feet in the clear. And it shall be the duty of any individual, firm or corporation, quasi municipal or otherwise, to remove said bare wires to conform to this ordinance as herein provided, within ninety days from date of service of notice to separate said wires, given by the Public Lighting Commission or its duly appointed agent. High potential wires in this ordinance being wires carrying currents of three hundred volts or over.

Sec. 3. It shall be unlawful for any individual, firm or corporation to encase, cover or introduce any wire, carrying electrical current into any iron pipe or any metallic electrical conducting material, affixed to any wooded pole, stanchion or upright, which shall extend nearer than eight feet from the lowest cross-arm on said wooden pole, stanchion or upright; and it shall be unlawful, to expose any electrical wire without such insulation in any manner which shall form a connection or circuit with the earth in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to life or health. This provision not to apply or prevent the encasement of said wires in any non-conducting substance or material such as wood, etc.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of any company stringing bare wires wherever said wires cross trolley wires, to provide safe and suitable insulation for all such bare wires at such crossings where in case of breakage said wires would come in contact with the aforesaid trolley wires.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Public Lighting Commission upon complaint of any citizen to examine or cause to be examined any dangerously exposed electrical wire and to notify the individual, firm or corporation owning or controlling the said exposed wire of its dangerous condition, and to have the same remedied at once, and made safe, and upon the failure of such individual, firm or corporation to remedy and make safe said dangerously exposed wire, it shall be the duty of the said Public Light Commission to cause a complaint to be made for a breach of this ordinance and to prosecute the said individual, firm or corporation for such breach, and any refusal or neglect to remedy said dangerously exposed wire after due and proper notice from the said Lighting Commission, shall subject the individual, firm or corporation owning or controlling the same, to a fine or imprisonment.

Sec. 6. All day circuits, excepting street railway circuits, of high potential currents, shall be designated by some mark or distinctive insulator upon each wire at each insulator to designate the same as such.

Sec. 7. It shall be the duty of any individual, firm or corporation to remove from any building, structure or pole, all dead wires, which are not actually in use, within thirty days from notice given by the Public Lighting Commission.

Any breach of this ordinance shall subject the offender to a fine of not exceeding two hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a period of not to exceed sixty

days, and each subsequent breach of this ordinance shall be deemed a separate offense and shall be so punishable.

Sec. 8. This ordinance shall take immediate effect.

Approved Nov. 1, 1898.

OTTO C. GOESCHEL,
Acting Mayor.

Attest.

JOHN A. SCHMID,
City Clerk.

Up to this time it required about one year to accomplish what we had, but we were soon to learn that our troubles were only begun, but, happily, we sidetracked all opposition from the private companies by inviting them to a conference that was held in our attorney's office for three consecutive nights. As a result of these conferences all opposition from that source was prevented and the original ordinance was so modified as to eliminate all the verbiage which lawyers so like to indulge in. The committee on ordinances then took the matter up and listened to arguments for and against it, and we discovered that the only opposition we had to encounter was that of the Public Lighting Commission, which was so successfully met that the committee reported the ordinance favorably without amendment, and referred it to the Corporation Council for advice as to its legality.

For some unaccountable reason the Corporation Council pigeonholed the ordinance and failed to make any report upon it. After waiting three months for such report we asked him the cause of the delay. He disclaimed all knowledge of the ordinance, and it was necessary to introduce a resolution to the Common Council demanding that he make some report before we could again have the ordinance resurrected, and we only succeeded then by furnishing another copy of the ordinance ourselves, as they claimed all other copies had been lost. The committee on ordinances again took the matter up, and again we had to meet the opposition of the Lighting Commission, but the true inwardness of their opposition had become so apparent from the fact that they had publicly made the assertion that "We will oppose the proposed ordinance or anything else that emanates from the same source" that it was easily overcome, the committee believing that they were not warranted in being a party to or supporting the Lighting Commission in their vindictive attitude toward labor organizations.

The ordinance was again reported favorably without amendment; was introduced into the Common Council October 11th; was placed upon its first and second reading and laid on the table for one week. Then came the battle royal that was fiercely waged during the next week. Our time was entirely taken up in explaining the merits of the ordinance to the individual alderman, and we learned from remarks they made and questions they asked

that the opposition was still very active, and at the next meeting of the Council they made their last spasmodic kick to defeat the ordinance by sending in the following communication:

To the Honorable the Common Council:

Gentlemen—In the matter of the proposed ordinance now before your honorable body for the protection of linemen and others working in and around wires carrying electricity, we would respectfully call your attention to the following:

On Oct. 5, 1897, page 852 of the Council proceedings, you will find a report from a special committee of six aldermen, stating that they had carefully considered the request for such an ordinance and that they had decided that such a matter belonged to the Public Lighting Commission, and that it be referred to that body. The report and recommendation were adopted.

On Nov. 4, 1897, page 935 of the Council proceedings, is the reply from the Public Lighting Commission relative to the desired ordinance and they state that in their belief no new ordinances are desired, and that the present ordinances are sufficient in every particular.

If it is the desire of the projectors of the proposed ordinance to protect linemen, etc., they can find already ample authorities and powers in the City Electrician, page 50 of the revised ordinances of 1895, and the electric wire connection ordinance, page 404 of the revised ordinances of 1895, and the ordinance to regulate electric wiring and the use of electricity, approved July 28, 1896. It is the duty of the City Electrician under these ordinances to have wires strung so as to give the greatest protection to lives and property. If his attention is called to any defective or dangerous work, it is his duty to correct the same, or, refusing to do so, he can be made to explain his reasons before the Public Lighting Commission or before the Common Council.

If it is the desire to get rid of dangerous wires in the down town districts, you will find, on May 18, 1897, page 368 of the Council proceedings, that the Common Council ordered and served notice on the electric light and power companies to take down all wires in the district bounded by Elizabeth, Woodbridge, St. Antoine and Second streets, and that the matter is now in the hands of the Corporation Counsel to enforce the order of the Council.

It is proposed for the protection of linemen and others who work entirely outdoors, to license, after an examination, workers in electrical wiring; but it is proposed to exempt from such examination and license the very men who do the outside work wherein all the danger is alleged to exist, and, on the other hand, to require the inside, or house wires, to pass the examination and take out a license for work where the least possible danger exists and where the work comes under the ordinance approved July 28, 1896, entitled an "ordinance to regulate electric wiring and the use of electricity."

The Corporation Counsel states that a permit or license can not be exacted of persons desiring to work as wiremen without a special act of the legislature, for paragraphs 138 and 139 of the charter specify who can be licensed, and in paragraph 143 of the charter places the licensing power in the hands of the Mayor. The charter, under chapter 13, sec. 9, gives the Public Lighting Commission power to regulate and condemn electric wiring, but gives them no jurisdiction

over the men doing the work. Furthermore, there is no appropriation available to cover the expenses of an examining and licensing board.

In the opinion of the Public Lighting Commission no new ordinances are required, those already in existence proving ample.

I have the honor to be,

Yours respectfully,

R. H. FYFE,

President Pub. Ltg. Commission.

In justice to our friends upon the Lighting Commission we wish to state that we have learned that the above communication was not authorized by an official meeting of the board and expresses the opinion of only the president and possibly one or two others, but coming as it did from the president of the board it had the same effect upon the aldermen that an official communication would have, so that when the motion was made to place the ordinance on its third reading an objection was raised for the reason that due consideration should be given them and another week's time should be granted for further investigation. The ordinance was then laid over another week.

During the next week our union had a meeting and I was authorized to answer the communication of the Lighting Commission, which I did by drafting and sending the following answer to the Common Council at their next meeting:

To the Honorable the Common Council:

Gentlemen—Inasmuch as some of the Public Lighting Commissioners have addressed a communication to your honorable body opposing the ordinance now before your honorable body entitled "an ordinance to regulate electric wiring and the use of electricity" and as some of the statements contained therein are not borne out by the facts and are misleading to say the least, we therefore desire in justice to ourselves to lay the true status of affairs before your honorable body for your intelligent consideration.

In the first place, they claim that sufficient protection is afforded electrical workers under the existing ordinances. The fact of the matter is, that the only ordinances in force to-day that in any way refer to the regulation of electric wiring are found on page 404 of the revised ordinances of 1895, and the ordinance to regulate electric wiring and the use of electricity approved July 28, 1896.

The former ordinance does only refer to and regulate wire connections, converter connections, and the wires leading thereto in the alleys in the rear of buildings, and does not in any way refer to the stringing of overhead wires as proposed in the new ordinance. The last named ordinance is confined exclusively to the regulation of the wiring of buildings and does not specifically designate the stringing of wires in or on any building. Now how the president of the Public Lighting Commission can construe that ordinance as affording any protection to men engaged in stringing overhead wires on poles is beyond my comprehension. The opponents of the proposed ordinance state in their communication that it is proposed for the protection of linemen and others who work entirely outdoors to license after an examination workers in electric wiring. The

above statement is in such direct opposition to the intent of the proposed ordinance that we are constrained to believe that its intention is either to mislead a covert attack upon the intelligence of the electrical workers or that they do not understand the intent of the proposed ordinance. The first section of the proposed ordinance was inserted at the urgent solicitation of a large majority of the wiremen engaged in the wiring of buildings throughout the city and the intention is to raise the standard of efficiency in that class of work for the better protection of property, as statistics will show that fully 25 per cent. of the damage by fire throughout the city is caused by defective wiring. It is not the intention of the ordinance to afford any protection to linemen by the regulation of the work of the wiremen, for the two branches of the trade are so distinct and different that any man with a grain of intelligence will readily understand that it is impossible to afford any protection to one by regulating the work of the other.

Before the Public Lighting Commission was organized, most of the conditions we complain of did not exist. The stringing of bare grounded wire on the same pole with high potential wires was originated by them with utter disregard to the lives of men engaged in that work, until to-day the dangers have become notorious, with two deaths directly traceable to the condition of affairs that have grown up under the fostering care and sanction of the Public Lighting Commission. We have petitioned them for redress but they have not even considered our petitions worthy of an answer.

In conclusion, we wish to say we do not believe the opposition of the Public Lighting Commission to the proposed ordinance tenable from the fact that they have openly and publicly made the assertion that they would oppose the present ordinance or anything else that emanates from the same source, an assertion that we believe clearly demonstrates the true inwardness of their opposition.

We therefore do not believe your honorable body desires to become a party to or indorse the vindictive spirit of some of the Public Lighting Commissioners in their opposition to labor organizations.

We therefore trust that your honorable body will carefully consider the proposed ordinance and grant us that protection which common sense and the dangerous nature of our work demands.

Respectfully submitted,
T. H. FORBES.

After the reading of the above communication, the ordinance was placed upon its third reading and, after a short discussion, was passed without a dissenting vote, and without a single amendment, and it was approved by the mayor and became a law November 1st. So ends one of the most bitterly contested fights in the history of our organization and demonstrates the truth of the motto "keeping everlastingly at it brings success."

THOMAS H. FORBES

A NEW LABOR UNION.

The electric workers of Toronto have taken the initiative in inaugurating a labor union in Canada. In this city they number from 100 to 150, and Mr. James Burgess of Buffalo, delegate from the National

Brotherhood, organized a union here last night with 45 to 50 members, under the name of Brotherhood of Electric Workers of Canada affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council. They expect to have the order made international. The provisional president and secretary are Thomas Eaton and F. Marson respectively.

From Uncle Tom.

Dec. 4, 1898.

My Dear Neph:

Now that your aunt and I have our corn crop harvested, the taters dug and our fall's work nearly done, I prepose to tell you about a little trip I took this fall. May be it will interest some one if that some one is none other than you and I. Well, along about tater digging time, and in order not to get in your aunt's way and to give her an opportunity to do all the work she wanted to (I don't like to hinder anyone when they are inclined to work), I concluded it was best for me to take a vacation. I had read in the papers that there was to be a peace jubilee down in Philadelphia; that the President and Generals and Admirals and Hobson were to be on hand, and as I belong to that class, I concluded to let them know I was able to be on hand even if they had forgotten to invite me. So off I started by way of New York City, or Greater N. Y., as it is now called. Speaking of N. Y. is like speaking of home, for I was born in the city, yet the city don't seem to know it, or has forgotten it. True it's many years since I walked the Bowery, and although the dew of youth is fast fading from my brow, yet dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood, the old oken buckett, etc. (The old buckett has turned into a tin growler, yet I recognized it.) Some one has written

"Oh, give me a club (not the kind the 'cops' carry).

A bottle or two of champagne to uncork,
A dude and some slang and a maiden to marry

And, see? I will make you a tale of
New York!"

Many changes have come over the big city in 20 years, still it is the same old town with its hum-drum rush and push; with its ceaseless tramp of millions; the high and low, the rich and poor, the sinner and saint, all bent upon the same mission, trying to corner and capture the almighty dollar. Many things have happened in New York since I was a kid, the men whome I supposed made this world and held a mortgage on the next are all gone, the places that knew them know them no more; and although I was prone to think they were the greatest men the world ever produced and unless I could be like one of them life was hardly worth the living, yet I have lived to see most of them pass beyond the great divide and now looking at

their deeds with eyes of experience gained from being buffeted about by a rude world. I believe I can say I would not change conditions with them to-day even if it is a little cold down here and they have a hot fire to sit by over yonder. The men I remember and who were the great men of the town in their day are many, and I recalled some of their names as I walked down Wall st. or stood in the stock exchange, in the City Hall, in the hall of science and art, or walked the busy marts of trade. There was Greeley and Bennett, Bonner and Dana, the great editor men, Beecher and Dr. Chapin, the preachers, Stewart, the merchant prince, Vanderbilt, the Commodore, and Wm. H. his son and the two Jays, Cook and Gould—all great financiers. Then there was Boss Tweed, whom people said was not honest; Peter B. Sweeney, John Morrisoy, John Kelly, ex-leaders of Tammany; O. K. Hall and Fernando Wood, ex-Mayors of N. Y.; there was Judge Davis, and Barnum, the show man; Cyrus W. Field, the organizer of the Atlantic Cable Co., Harry Hill, the sport, and homely old Peter Cooper, who will never be forgotten; there was ex-Governor Morgan, at one time president of the N. Y. C. R. R.; these and many more who have long since climbed the golden stair there, are the men whome I supposed (I know better now) would sit on the right of the great white throne and dictate to the Lord whome he was to receive and whome he was to reject; but I am of the opinion now, and can say with malice towards none, that unless I am greatly mistaken in the policy of the Lord, many of them will have to stand over on the left along with the goats and other poor people who have failed to walk in the straight and narrow path. I was able to recall many things that had nearly passed from my mind. I remember the burning of the Colored Orphan Asylum, the shooting of Jim Fisk, the Beecher scandal and many other events which had nearly or quite passed from my memory until I visited the places where these scenes were enacted. I found the street wherein I used to dwell, but the house that I was born in standeth not, and I looked in vain for granny's old arm chair and the hat my father wore.

"But the schoolhouse stands there just the same, the barefoot boys at play
Are sporting now as we did then, with
spirits just as gay."

I traveled the big city from Bullshead to the Battery and from the bridge to the heights in search of some of my old chums, but they are all gone, and it was not until within an hour of leaving time that I was able to find an old friend; and as I had only an hour to talk to him I persuaded him to go with me over to Philadelphia and see the show, which he did; but I had not been on the road with him more than

half an hour before I wished him safe back in N. Y.; not that I was sorry to have met him, for I was not; but I found in him the worst kind of a crank and a single-tax crank at that. Now, I am something of a single-taxer myself, and have great respect for the doctrine laid down by Henry George, but when one undertakes to pump great chunks of information into me larger and faster than my mental digestive organs are capable of handling and keeps it up hour after hour (when like the snake in the story he wiggles in and wiggles out and leaves the looker-on in doubt whether the snake that made the track was going south or coming back), I am apt to rebel; and although I may agree with the pumper, I want an opportunity to pump a little back, even if it is not iron-clad, steel-bound and double-riveted intellect. My friend had in days gone by been a red-hot Republican, so hot that it was unsafe for him to go out in the wet as he might generate steam enough to blow up. So when he came at me with his single-tax talk do you wonder that astonishment followed surprise, and wonder astonishment. Oh, if you could only have heard him; if I could have attached a bike cyclometer or a gas meter to him I am sure he would have reeled off many thousand miles or cubic feet between the city of Platt and Crocker and the city of Brotherly love; he got me as figity as a girl with a caterpillar down her back. He belongs to the single tax club and wanted the whole world to know it; he belittled the opinions of others and set up one of his own and swore by his beard that no one had a right to contradict him. He swore that the single-tax club contained the people, the only people, and all the people of any account; he raved like a McCulloch or a Siddons and as one ready to set up his opinion against the whole world and swear he was right and all others wrong, as a bleaver in minority rule, providing he was on the minority side, as a genuine kicker from Kickville, as a grumbler and fault-finder and a regular old scold he was second to no man. A short time after we arrived in the Quakers' town he cooled off and seemed like his old self again and I was able to talk to him and tell him I was of nearly the same opinion as he without his flying off the handle and abusing me because I did think as he did. During the parade we were fortunate enough to obtain seats nearly opposite the reviewing stand on which stood the President and other dignitaries, and the whole croud could be seen very nicely from where we were located, but it so happened that just behind us sat a man whom I should judge was a Republican. I don't know how my friend found it out unless it was by instinct, but find it out he did, and true to his argumentative nature he began to talk single-tax, and after many kicks and winks I con-

less I tumbled and began to talk too. We began in a quiet way at first, gradually increasing in volume and range; he took the single-tax problem and I the Socialistic point of view, and the longer we talked the louder we talked, untill we both began to get warm under the collar; and inly my friend wound up by roasting McKinley and the two old parties in good old fashion style. This was more than our Republican friend could stand, and rising in his seat he lambasted and tongue-lashed the two of us to beat the band. He said we were a brace of fools, were dangerous people to be at large, that we were a curse to humanity, and the cause of panics and the hard times; that he had no doubt we were there with the intention of assassinating the President; and he should keep an eye upon us and if he saw the first suspicious move he should consider it his duty to inform the police. He kept up his rant until a red harred individual sitting near became tired and ordered him to shut up. This was the straw that broke the camel's back. The next scene is a general mix up—legs and arms flying seven ways for Sunday; two big policemen, a hurry-up wagon, and off they go. Poor fellow, I felt sorry for him, yet I do not think him worthy of much sympathy, for he poked his finger into our political pie and tried to steel the plumbs and raisins, leaving us the dry crust; he chipped into our political poker game unbidden and sought to carry off the whole jack pot. He put in his political oar and attempted to wreck our bark on the rocks and shoals of Republican tyranny; in short, my dear neph, he made a goate of himself by meddling and mixing up with other people's pow-wows and got into trouble. I don't know who the man was; I could not learn his name, but after I returned home and read the November Worker I concluded he must be a near relative of some of our own lectricl clamity howlers or ink slingers.

After looking over Uncle Sam's big war ships, Liberty Hall, the mint and other places of interest in the City of Brotherly Love, we started on our several ways home—my friend towards the great metropolis and I towards the sitting sun by way of the smoky city of Pittsburg, as I had telegraphed the mayor that I hoped my entrance into the city might be as unostentatious as possible, and that I be not provided with official escort, very few people knew of my arrival.

The first thing I proceeded to do after dinning at the club was to hunt up Bro. Ecoff, whom I found in a pickie foundry over in Alleghaney. Bro. Ecoff laid aside his work and showed me his electric plant, which, by the way, is a very fine one; and as Ecoff knows a thing or two about electricity, I need not tell you that the plant is well managed. In the evening I met Bros.

Rudolph, Lunney, Willsden, Malone, Bream and half a dozen other brothers whose names I do not now recall, but all were anxious to do, and did, all in their power to make my stay a pleasant one; and right here I want to say to the members of the locals who are intending to send delegates to Pittsburg next fall, that I can assure them in advance that they will be entertained and taken care of in an A No. 1 style. Everything that 5 can do to further their welfare and make their stay a pleasant one will be done. No 5 is a hard-working, progressive local, and its members are made up of that particular kind of fiber which you will find in all true-blue union men.

Pittsburg is a great town, with its great iron industries, chuck full of hustle, bustle and smoke. It has some very fine business blocks and residences, good hotels and places of amusement; its street car service is O. K., so far as I was able to judge; the trolly cars run every which way and seven ways for Sunday; they criss-cross, run in circles and loops up and down hill, over mountain, plain and valley. The only faults I find with Pittsburg is its narrow streets and its water. While in the city I, without malice or forethought, inadvertently took a bite of their water. Just why I did so I am unable to state. I am not in the habit of testing much water when at home, and just why I should try to eat Pittsburg water is something I can't quite understand, but I did it, and you can guess the result. You will have to guess, for I shan't tell you here. I would not dare to. Oh, no; but I promise you I will never, never be so foolish again.

Friday evening I attended the regular meeting of No. 5, and a very good meeting it was. They initiated one and received several applications. Like No. 38 they have raised their initiation fee to \$10. Bro. Malone was running for congress on the people's ticket, which is also an honor to No. 5. I have not heard whether or not he was elected. I hope he was, for I should like to see him on the appropriation committee, where he might be able to get a few millions to build breweris in Pittsburg, and thus do away with the water altogether. Under the head of Good of the Union I was invited to deliver a speech. Now, if there is one thing I like better than another it's speech-making, and so I squared myself and proceeded to do my best for No. 5, but somehow, as is always the case, something did not work right. My speed run down; my commutator sparked, and my rheostat smoked untill my oil cups run dry and I came near getting a hot box. One of the brothers seeing the predicament I was in, went out and brought me in some water on a fork. (That's the quickest way to fetch water in Pittsburg.) This brought instant relief, and I was able to say amen and sit down.

The boys seemed to enjoy it, and as no one seemed to feel the dire effect, well, let'er go.

While in the city I visited the Carnegie Public Library and Art Gallery, and it is well worth a visit—a magnificent structure of massive brown stone and marble. As I stood within its walls I reflected upon this man whose career has been so wonderful, and the thought come to me, did Andrew Carnegie build this magnificent pile; did he? No; a thousand times no; it was reared by labor. Without labor Carnegie could not have existed. It was the working man that reared this pile from basement to dome, and the horny-handed sons of toil who built it will go (if not already gone) down into the solemn silence, into the dreamless dust, unheard of and unknown, forgot by all except by those that loved them; but Andrew Carnegie will live. Did he, Carnegie, earn the money that paid for this structure? No; a thousand times no. The money was rung from the brain, the bone and muscle, the sweat and blood and tears of the thousands of men and women who have worked, toiled and slaved for his glory. But while he stands upon the pedestal of fame a fickle world will grovel at his feet, and upon his brow will place a diadem of honor, while around about him will circle a halo of glory—all for gold. But live on, Andy; enjoy yourself while you can, for there will come a time when Dingly tariff, Pinkerton thugs and plugged armor-plate cannot protect you. It is said there is a judge holding court in the New Jerusalem—a judge you cannot bribe, buy or sell; one who knows naught of restraining orders, nor government by injunction. It is also said that all men must render unto Him an account of deeds done here below. If this is true, He will some day summons you, and you will have to go yourself, Andy. No paid attorney or corporation counsel can represent you there. This Judge is fair, honest and just, and before Him you will stand and He will hear your plea. If you want to know what will happen after that, borrow a Bible, turn to the 26th chapter of Luke, begin at the 19th verse and read the remainder of the chapter.

Leaving Pittsburg at night so as to avoid a public demonstration, I arrived home in the morning just in time to put myself outside of some of your aunt's buckwheat cakes, beefsteak and coffee. I tell you, young man, there is no place like home. True, mine is a humble one, but I had rather be there than any place on earth.

Well, I am here and at work trying to earn a few \$ to replace those I used up swinging around the circle, and incidentally pick up enough to take a swing next year.

Wishing yourself, the E. B. and the

whole Brotherhood a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year, I am

Yours fraternally,

UNCLE TOM.

From "Old Crip."

Raton, N. M., Dec. 5, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Here we are again with our little budget of news from the "Rockies." Glad to report that I am still among the living. Glad to see so many good letters in the Worker every month and sincerely hope to see more and more of them as time goes on. There are a good many men belonging to this B. who could contribute some very interesting letters to the Worker, and the good resulting from such letters through the Worker could not easily be overestimated. I think a question and answer column would add a great deal to the interesting features of the Worker, and I hope such a column will soon be added. It is certainly very gratifying to have such a willing and untiring editor. And we should remember that the Worker is what we make it, and that unless the members do their part towards making it a success, it does not give the editor a fair chance to do his part. And he has certainly not been sparing in his ardent solicitations to us to join with him.

Well, brothers, I am still trying to sell my Almanacs, and of course it's a slow business, but some of the locals have been helping me. I sent eight of my books to L. U. 41 of Buffalo, N. Y., and they sent me six dollars, one dollar of it being donated by Bro. Evans. The Bros. of L. U. 74, Winona, Minn., cheerfully sent me three dollars for twelve copies, and the brothers of Local No. 6, San Francisco, sent five dollars for twenty more copies. Also the brothers of Local No. 77, Seattle, Wash., sent me \$7.50 for thirty copies. Now, brothers, such as this speaks for itself, and it shows whether there is good brotherly hearts in this B. or not. I often meet men that are prejudiced against unionism, who sometimes claim that union men won't help a hungry man, and when they have finished their discourse against unionism, then I "sail into 'em," and I don't fail to tell them that I am a member of the N. B. E. W., and that the members had kept me and family from want a number of times since I have been a helpless cripple, and that they had practically done so gratis. I run up against one man that said "that he had no use for a union man, and that he did not like them, and did not associate with them," and then I told him if he would forsake his sinful ways and associate with us more that he would like us better. Then he got angry and went away. Some men seem to delight in trying to disrupt and tear down unionism, when, if they would lend their efforts to help build it up they could command the esteem and re-

spect of everybody, and have better jobs and better everything.

I am glad to note Bro. Burgess' success across the line, and hope to hear of more.

Bro. D. Pearce is still here and has certainly shown a good and generous heart toward me. He was electrician at the mines three miles from here, but he quit the job for the reason that the company (monopoly) had no respect for the rights of their employes, and wanted him to work for scab wages, and so he walked out, which shows his high sense of honor, and that he is made of the right kind of material.

Well, I must "douce the glim" for this time, and if some of these Rocky mountain blizzards don't freeze me out I will "bob up" again next month, that is if I don't get covered up with Xmas gifts, and, of course, if any of the brothers will send me a present my address is Raton, N. M.

With a grateful heart and my best wishes to every member for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, I am

Fraternally,

ROBERT G. WRIGHT.

AN INQUIRING MIND.

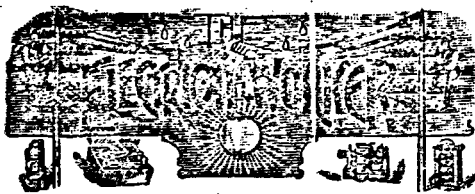
Kansas Customer Wants to Know About Injun Rubber Tires.

A Cleveland manufacturer sends the Plain Dealer this decidedly original communication from a Kansas customer, who wants-to-know:

"dear surs: I liv on my farm near Hamilton Kansas and am 57 years old and a little sportia. My newfiew in Indiany bot himself a new bisekkel and cent me his old one by frate, and Ive learnt to ride sum. Its a pile of fun, but my bisekkel joults orful. A feller cum along yestiddy with a bisekkel what had holler injun rubber tires, stuffed with wind. He let me try hissen and mi! it run like a kushen. He told me you sell injun rubber just the same as hissen. Mine is all iron wheels. Do you punch the holler hole through the injun rubber, or will I have to do it myself? How do you stick the ends together after you get the hole punched? If your injun rubber is already holler will it come eny cheaper? I kin git all the wind I want out here in Kansas free. When you screw the injun rubber on to the wheels, do you put the screws clean through the windy part? and why don't the wind ooze out? Don't you think smoke would be beter than just wind, as it would make it litar? The feller also said hissen had sum littel balls in the axels to make it run faster. How much would a dozen of the balls cum at? and where do you feed them in at? Do you think I cud make buckshot do the bizness, or would they mash and get sticky?"

"P. S.—How much do you charge for the doodad you stuff the wind into the injun rubber with, and where do you start, and how do you keep the wind from coming out while you have the hole open, and how do you know when it is full?"

The Electrical Workers' Union and the New Telephone Company of Indianapolis, Ind., have signed an agreement providing for a nine-hour day and price and one-half for overwork.



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 WORKERS.**
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As The Electrical Worker reaches the men who do
 the work and recommend or order the material,
 its value as an advertising medium can be readily
 appreciated.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1898.

W. N. Gates, Special Advertising Agent,
 29 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, O.



OWING to the generous response on the
 part of our numerous correspondents to
 the request of the Editor, the Directory
 has been crowded out of this issue.

THIRD Vice-President Adams was
 elected to represent the National Brother-
 hood at the convention of the American
 Federation of Labor. Comment on this
 election is unnecessary, as all who know
 Bro. Adams are aware of his ability. He
 is shrewd, energetic and a good worker.

THE man who isn't prepared to abide by
 the decision of the majority has no business
 in a labor union, or any other body, or to
 live under a republican form of govern-
 ment. When the majority has passed up-
 on a question, there should be acquiescence
 all along the line. This is well to remem-
 ber at your next election of officers. Work
 for your candidate, but, if he is defeated,
 go with the majority.

A PROMPT RESPONSE.

It is gratifying to note that members of
 the Brotherhood are awakening to the fact

that the Worker is the organ of every mem-
 ber of the Brotherhood; that its columns
 are open to full and free discussion of the
 many subjects which make for the good of
 the order. During the past month we have
 received welcome communications from
 brothers widely separated geographically,
 but united in the bonds of our Brother-
 hood. Let us hope that this privilege will
 be availed of to a still greater extent. By
 this means brothers will get into closer
 touch with one another and the contact can
 only result in good.

ELECTRICAL ABSURDITIES.

In a former number of the Worker we
 took occasion to criticize, in a friendly and
 entirely good natured way, the use of
 epithets by a technical electrical journal
 when writing of men engaged in the prac-
 tical end of electrics. It now transpires
 that some of the technical journals have an
 opportunity to reflect upon the proposition
 that there may be some reason in regard-
 ing practical workmen as an important fac-
 tor in the art; in fact act as a balance
 wheel.

Everybody knows how subservient some
 of these technical journals have been, in
 their treatment of "wizards" of the profes-
 sion. Until very recently they did not
 venture to criticize any proposition, how-
 ever absurd, so long as it emanated from
 either Houston street, New York, or that
 portion of Jersey which rejoices in the
 name of Menlo Park.

To be sure, some of the propositions
 were very difficult to swallow; but they
 managed to "worry them down," because
 they emanated from the wizards. Now
 that the entire lay world is laughing at the
 preposterous claims set forth by the past
 masters of technical electrical knowledge,
 the technical editors are taking to cover.

In another portion of the present num-
 ber of the Worker appears a very enter-
 taining article from the New York Evening
 Post, devoted to some recent advancements
 in the art, as promulgated by Nikola
 Tesla. The article forms very interesting
 reading from the standpoint of a practical
 electrical worker, and some of the "wire
 drawers and cable workers" will scarcely
 refrain from a smile. They know, and the
 technical editors know that, had Mr. Tesla
 taken counsel of the practical electrical
 workers in his employ, he would never
 have emitted the rubbish which has re-
 cently found its way into print.

It is simply a case of imagination, unre-
 strained by the sober, practical judgment
 which emphatically finds its best exponent
 in the practical electrical workers of to-
 day. With all due respect to Mr. Tesla,
 he has been, during the later years in which
 merited prosperity has come to him, a good
 deal disposed to think that he was the
 whole thing; that, together with a baker's
 dozen of technical writers who had for so

many years boomed his interests, the group
 monopolized the art of electricity.

Now, the very magazines which have
 aided in exploiting his "oscillator" and his
 other contrivances, are obliged, in self re-
 spect, to hedge. They are forced to draw
 the line at a patent battery which attracts
 deadly microbes from the human body and
 dashes out the brains of the bacilli on a
 wall five feet distant from the patient. It
 is possible that some of Mr. Tesla's ad-
 mirers in the technical press would have
 passed the microbe destroying battery
 without adverse comment. When, how-
 ever, the wizard proposed to steer a tor-
 pedo boat against a fleet of battle ships by
 the operation of the human mind on a
 coherer, and emerge the coherer to ignite
 explosives by means of the same human
 will exerted miles away on the bridge of a
 vessel, it suggested caution. They had
 seen, as most of us here, the operation of
 the Marconi system of telegraphy at short
 --very short--distances, but they were not
 prepared to accept hypnotic suggestion as
 a means of exploding submarine mines
 and dirigible torpedos.

It thus chances that we see fewer slight-
 ing allusions to "wire pullers and cable
 workers;" less bumptious assumption that
 the technical and practical in electrics oc-
 cupy far different planes. On the other
 hand there is evident much of chagrin that
 pipe dreams like those quoted in the Even-
 ing Post should be exploited as genuine
 electrical theories.

The sober fact is that the technical and
 practical in electricity go hand in hand,
 and must always do so, if genuine advance
 in the art is to be achieved. This journal
 has frequently exhorted its practical read-
 ers to acquire all of the technical knowl-
 edge of the art possible.

In view of recent developments, would
 it not be well for some of the technical
 people to get a little more in touch with the
 practical workers? Such talk as appears
 in the article in the Evening Post which we
 quote, can only, and justly, excite contempt
 in the minds of lay readers. Electricity is
 a pretty good thing in its way, and it is do-
 ing a "heap of good" along practical lines
 but we are not yet assured that it will usurp
 the powers of the Diety or work miracles
 like those involved in the latest dreams of
 the wizard

PERSONAL FEELING.

We often hear members of this and other
 organizations say there is too much per-
 sonal feeling displayed by members. Allow
 us to say that oftentimes men's meanings are
 misconstrued. Because we differ in our
 methods it does not follow that there is
 any personal feeling. The best of friends
 fail to agree some times, for as long as the
 world goes round, men will have views of
 their own. The labor movement needs
 fighters, fearless, honest, fighters, men

who have the interest of the organization at heart, men who have stood the test, for there is nothing that will test a man's sincerity more than the labor organization of to-day, and we cannot think for one moment that the members let personal feelings rule their better judgment. At least we hope not. When men are elected to office they take upon themselves an obligation to fulfill the duties of the office to the best of their ability. With justice to all, partiality to none, with no personal feeling in the matter, the workmen of this country are too intelligent to allow personal feelings to hinder the progress of their organization. And when we vote for officers we should vote for those whom we think will fill the bill. When an executive board is elected, what is it elected for? To transact the business of the Brotherhood for two years. Two years is a short time in the history of an organization, and when the time comes for them to give an account of themselves, if they have failed to do their duty there is a remedy in the ballot. But when elected and placed under bond, they must, if they have any conscience, do their duty without any personal feeling.

Now, Brothers, because a man may disagree with you it does not follow that there is any personal feeling. The columns of the Worker are open for free discussion at all times. Personal attacks, however, will not be published, but anything that will help to build up the organization is always acceptable, and, while we may disagree on technical points, let us work for the best interests of the Brotherhood.

AGREEMENTS.

We are pleased to note that No. 10, Indianapolis, Ind., has succeeded in getting an agreement signed by the new telephone company of that city. It proves conclusively that these agreements are acceptable to all fair-minded men when they are drawn on broad lines which give the employer and employee each a show. In this progressive age of ours, where competition is strong, a labor organization must keep up the pace, but on conservative lines, not by radical measures or abuse. The members should study up the important economic questions of the day, and not tackle capital just because it is capital. There are a great many employers who are reasonably fair with their employees, this we are forced to admit, and when men of this kind treat us fairly, let us reciprocate by using them in the same way. A great many committees fail to get agreements signed for the simple reason they did not approach the employer in a fair-minded gentlemanly way, but try to gain points by threats and bulldozing. Signing an agreement is a business transaction. The employees want it signed to protect themselves and when the employer signs

it he wants to see his way clear. We are pleased to note nearly all the agreements forbid the members taking contracts for themselves, that is, to allow a member of the local to do work after hours. While we have heard no objection to this, let us ask ourselves if it is fair. We can not expect a contractor to pay rent and the running expenses of business and figure against what we are pleased to call the basket man, the man who has no shop other than some room in his residence. His expenses are small, consequently he can take a job at small figures. Where there are agreements, we hope all members will live up to them. In cities where there is no contractors' association, if the contractors get the worst of it they should have no kick coming, but take their medicine like men.

ROBERT WRIGHT NEW YEAR'S BOX.

On another page of this issue will be found a letter from a member of Local 41, introducing a scheme to give our worthy brother, R. Wright, a New Year's present. We sincerely hope that the members of this organization will respond liberally. Take up the collections in your locals, and while we are enjoying our humble festivities on New Year's Day, let us remember one who has assumed the same obligation that we have, to help one another, but through an accident he has been left helpless, and this makes it impossible for him to help others when he cannot help himself. When you are returning home at night after a hard day's work, perhaps feeling down hearted and sad, let your mind wander back over your own life, recalling that you have been blessed with a fair share of health and the good things of life for your family and yourself. Realizing that our injured brother has been, through no fault of his own, deprived of the opportunity to earn these blessings, let us make his Christmas holiday enjoyable. Not a man of us will miss the mite that we chip in for Bro. Wright's New Year's box—not as charity, but an expression of good cheer for our disabled brother and his wife and little ones.

THE VICTORY AT DETROIT.

In another column of the Worker will be found an extract from the Detroit Sentinel, which gives an account of the successful endeavor of Bro. Thomas H. Forbes, of Local No. 17, and the local committee to obtain the passage of an ordinance regulating the stringing of wires in Detroit. The object of the ordinance was to render the work of the linemen more safe.

Detroit owns its own plant, and the proposed ordinance was strenuously opposed by the Lighting Committee, which put up a strong fight.

Bro. Forbes went into the Council and took up the cudgel for the right, and he

won. Bro. Forbes is an intelligent, aggressive and clean fighter, and he stands for the rights of the Brotherhood. In this case he was battling for humane and just methods in the conduct of municipal affairs. He was not pleading for, but demanding, that the overhead construction of the Detroit Municipal plant be so constructed that men could carry on their daily avocation with due regard to safety of life. It is fair to assume, now that the point for which Bro. Forbes and the committee of Local No. 17 stood, that even the members of the Lighting Commission are better satisfied. There could be no question that the principle contended for was right, and it always pays to be right. Bro. Forbes and the committee are entitled to the thanks of the entire Brotherhood.

NOTICE.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Bro. Roy Peck, member of Local 22, of Omaha, Neb., will confer a favor by addressing his mother, Mrs. Sarah J. Peck, who resides at 212 N. Railroad st., Bucyrus, Ohio.

Storm Echoes.

Boston, Dec. 5, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

On Saturday night and Sunday, November 26th and 27th, a storm raged along the coast of New England which wrought great havoc and loss of life: the steamer Portland, on its regular run from Boston, was lost and 165 lives or more were sacrificed to the fury of the elements and the angry sea. Many smaller craft succumbed and other lives were lost, of which accounts up to this time are probably not entirely authentic; watchers still patrol the beach on the shores of Cape Cod in hopes that the surf might bring in one more body with it. Up to this time, perhaps, only 20 bodies in all have been recovered, most of which were identified. It is the belief that many of them are buried deep beneath the sand and sea mud. It is not my intention to give much of an account of the wrecks and loss of life upon the sea, as you have all, no doubt, read accounts of the disasters in the daily papers; however, this narration might bring to your notice how forcibly the storm raged along the beach, my intention being to note some little havoc that was caused by the wrecking of telegraph and telephone lines, which came under my observation, and caused me to do some hustling during the past week. I am employed by the Commercial Cable Co. as station lineman here, and was sent out to find the reason why our lines would not work. It took me a long time to find the cause, as the only mode of travel was walking and pretty slow moving at that, as the snow was drifted badly in many places, and it was still snowing hard and blowing a gale, but

I faced the music, and when I did reach the line at a point about eight miles out, where our line runs along the beach for a half a mile, the poles were down, cross arms twisted and a general, first-class wreck, I assure you. On the opposite side of the street the American Telephone line runs, carrying possibly 70 or 80, mostly copper wires. Poles are braced and guyed in every conceivable way to stand the strain, but the storm laid them flat, and such a mass of wires, broken poles and general disorder on a telegraph line one seldom sees. At a point about four miles from Boston our line was badly wrecked. The New England Telephone Co. has wires on the line here, and at another point were we were down. Places where no wires but our own, ten in number, were on the poles, which undoubtedly caught as much if not more of the blast of the storm, were intact. Foreman William Ryan was congratulating himself when he built this particular line and selected poles of extra sizes for the work, but I think from his observations since the storm, the fact is clearly demonstrated to him that there is a possibility of getting a few two many wires on poles which would appear to have a great carrying capacity. As is usual with the Commercial Cable Co. they were not long in recovering their wires, as a large gang of extra men were put to work in getting wires working temporarily. A gang of men was sent on from New York, but was handicapped in getting here. The train being forty hours on the road, the usual running time being five or six hours. Considering the badly wrecked line you will imagine there was some hustling, as the delay in business was of little note. I wish to correct a statement which appeared in the Boston Post a few days ago relative to linemen. It seems to me that one of the reporters must have been misinformed as to linemen in general, as I have followed the vocation since I have been big enough to do manual work, and am now counted in with the old timers and probably know something about the fraternity and their characteristics. In the first place no lineman in this section works for any company for \$1.75 per day. Probably the reporter, considering that he got his information at Cambridge, was up against one of the telephone ground hogs, who gives a climber a quarter occasionally to let him carry his spurs, to make people believe he is a climber. The average rate of wages of the linemen who belong to the Electrical Worker's Union is \$2.50 per day; some of course who act as foremen get 25c and 50c extra; station linemen get from \$55.00 to \$65.00 with the Western Union; other telegraph companies who employ more skillful linemen pay from \$60.00 to \$85.00 per month. There is no scale of prices in case of severe storms, the men getting in such cases what the demand for their services

warrant. I have known men to get \$5.00 and as high as \$7 per day and all expenses. The Postal Telegraph Co. and the Commercial Cable Co. have paid such prices in the recent storm. The men who were hired in New York to come here were paid \$5.00 a day, hotel board, railway fare and sleeping accommodations, their wages starting from the time they were hired until they returned. As to linemen being of a roving disposition, there is a certain class of them who are. This is due to the fact, perhaps, that a good lineman can find employment in any part of the country and, there being so many different lines of work to pick from, you will usually find the men who travel so much are the ones who understand the business thoroughly and can do electric railway, electric light, telegraph, telephone, or inside wiring. There are several linemen in this and other cities who never wander from their own fireside, and the Post's informant would have us think that few of them get married. While I am not in line with the married ones, (for reasons best known to myself), I have had the pleasure of calling on some of the married ones, and I can assure you their domestic happiness is looked after just as well as anybodys with the same means. They provide for their wives and children and have the same pride exactly that any intelligent man has got, and should have.

Only met a few of the boys with the grip; Bros. Herbert and Conroy came on from Hartford, and Bros. Cronan and Hurley, who are employed by the Commercial Cable Co. and working with Foreman James Emhoff on line repairs. Think Bro. Hurley is getting himself solid with the financial secretary of 35, as he sent dues in advance. That's the way Bro. Tracy likes to see the boys come up. Eh! John? Sorry we were so rushed with business that we could not take Bros. Herbert and Conroy around a little; would like to have taken them down the harbor to see the ships, but Bro. Herbert came in so tired every night after rushing the gang all day. I don't think he had any use for a ship, other than a schooner. I guess he saw few of them anchored on Merchants Row. Regards to all the boys along the line.

Fraternally,
F. J. SHEEHAN.

Robt. G. Wright New Year's Box.
Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 22, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Having noticed in the last issue of the Worker an invitation to all brothers to write whether they are Press Secretaries or not, I will take advantage of the opportunity, which, though I knew it existed, like others I have to be drummed up occasionally to let me know I am on earth.

I have in mind a subject which is, or should be fresh in the minds of every

brother in the order, and one to which I am afraid I cannot do justice, but I hope this will reach the eyes of all, and also accomplish the purpose for which it is intended.

About one year ago I received a very appealing letter from Bro. Bobt. G. Wright, then at Waco, Tex., I believe, asking if through my efforts I could help him to sell some of his little books, called "A Portable Climax," of which he was the writer.

I read and re-read that letter to every brotherhood man I met for weeks, until I could almost repeat it word for word. I brought the matter up before Local No. 44 of Rochester, N. Y., of which I was a member at that time, and how well I remember how attentively the boys all listened, and hardly had I been seated before there was a motion put through which made Bro. Wright \$25.00 better off.

To-night I am in receipt of another letter, dated Raton, New Mexico, in which he states that he is in the same condition he was a year ago, and also that he has had sickness in his family and is in very straightened circumstances. Now, brothers, I know this brother's appeal has been kept before you, and no doubt the brothers have given what they could, but that does not help the matter at the present time. We must, or at least ought to, do something for this poor unfortunate brother. Just think of it, a man who has been well and hearty and doing line work, climbing from day to day, going home tired at night, and as soon as he reaches home finds his wife and little one waiting to greet him with a kiss and a welcome, which more than paid him for the toil he had gone through during the day, now having to lie in bed most of the time and be cared for like a child. Oh! it is something dreadful. And with all this he still says if he only had the use of his hands he could help himself. I am sure it shows courage, ambition and proves to all that he is worthy of all we, as brothers, can do for him.

If I understand rightly, he has always been a true-blue union man. Even when he lay on a sick bed he saw there was a possibility of one of our local unions down in Texas going to the wall. He didn't say "let her go," but he exerted himself and influenced the boys and finally held them together.

Now, brothers, every one of you in the N. B. E. W. of A., are we going to stand still and see this worthy brother and his little family suffer? I say no, and I think I voice every man of us. Let us band ourselves together in behalf of Bro. Wright, as we have in our labor, and make him a New Year's present that will not only give him and his family pleasure, but will make us feel that we have done our duty to our brother and fellowman.

I would suggest that the G. S. notify each and every Financial Secretary to

establish a box, and call it the Robt. G. Wright New Year's Box. Let every member give at least 50c, and as much more as he can. I think a handsome sum could be raised in this way. I am sure out of 2,000 members say if 1,500 each give 50 cents, just think of it, \$750, which would make one man the happiest man in New Mexico on the first day of January, 1899, and the 1,500 that had helped to do this could truthfully say "We have done well, we are glad of it, and we never missed it."

I hope this little piece of just brotherly love will not meet with any objection, so let's push it along. Those of you who will can start your box at once, and forward contributions to G. S. Sherman, 731 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y., so that Bro. Robt. G. Wright will be able to eat New Year's turkey, and I know his only thought will be a Happy New Year to the members of the N. B. E. W. of A.

I will now close and drop \$1.00 in the box for Robt. G. Wright.

Fraternally yours,

WM. A. BREESE,

Member of Local 41.

FAVORS A QUESTION BOX.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 7. 1898.

Editor of the Electrical Worker and Fellow Brothers:

By the way, having just read the November Worker which I happened to procure by chance at the last meeting of our local, notwithstanding that my dues have never yet been in arrears, I am greatly pleased to find that the Editor of same is a man of business qualities as our paper shows this year by its decided improvements, also by his request in November Worker for a "Question and Queries Column," which I believe will be the Eureka of the paper, (as I must candidly admit that merely a P. S.'s statement that Bill Jones is sick and that ten attended the local's last meeting is tiresome reading,) and I believe in a thorough discussion on practical rather than theoretical subjects, as being a means of making the paper popular among the boys. Now there are a great many of the boys with the word electrician on their visiting cards who have a lot to learn but of course will not admit it. And I am sure that they would rather lie in a corner than openly ask through the Worker for needed advice. Therefore, I think it well to solicit inquiries also from some who may be fully posted themselves on the questions which may be asked, as they know themselves where the shoe pinched during their struggle. Just a few days ago a diplomat from the Keystone Electrical College called at my office, and, in speaking of bell work, he said that there was something mysterious about an annunciator because if you placed an extra bell to ring in hall in multiple with the front door call that it would surely drop some of

the other points of the annunciator; but if you run a third wire from the front it would not, and he concluded by showing how to construct his push button, which was correct. Yet he maintains there was no use for the third wire and what mission it fulfilled he could not see, or why the annunciator dropped other points when he did not use his conundrum push. I may also state, about a year ago I had a diplomat of the highest presentage of the C. E. class of the Western University of Penn., who would or could not see why it did after I connected it up and showed him. Now, I wish some one would illustrate this cause and effect next month as a feeler.

Fraternally yours,

A. E. ELDRIDGE.

From a Member of Union No. 22.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 3, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

As I have nothing to do and am a cripple I will write a few lines to let the brothers of the N. B. E. W. know that Rombold is still alive and able to be around on a pair of sticks. I guess all the brothers who read the August Worker saw that I met with an accident on the 1st of July, when I got my right foot broken at the ankle and heel and my left foot broken at the ankle also. Well, brothers, I laid three months and four days in the hospital, then I went home, and was there a little over two weeks when the typhoid fever got a hold of me and I had to go back to the hospital for three weeks more. I then left the hospital on the sixth day of November. I am feeling as good as ever now, only my right foot is not well yet, and it will take a long time before I will be able to use it again. Well, Brothers, I tell you that while I was in the hospital I always had lots of company, for Bros. Bob Currin and O. F. Almon would come up every other evening and sometimes every evening. Well, all of the brothers of No. 22 came up to see me, I guess, as often as they could, for there was not a day but some of the boys would come up and spend the afternoon or evening with me, so I never got lonesome.

I thank all of the brothers of No. 22 for what they did for me. I never will forget them, and I thank them all a thousand times for it. They stood right with me and helped me through all my trouble. I just happened to have a paid up card when I got hurt, and I am glad of it, too. I belong to other lodges, and my dues run out on the last day of June, so that left me in arrears, or I would have got help from them, too, if I had been square on the books. Brothers, I will tell you that it is a good thing for me that I was square on the books of No. 22, for I don't think the brothers could treat any member better than I was treated.

Brothers it is a nice thing to keep your-

self square on the books, for you don't know just what time you are going to have the hot stuff slung into you. I got it when I least expected it, and good and hard, too.

I can't get around very much yet, but I managed to get up to a meeting of No. 22 on the 16th of November, and I tell you that I enjoyed it. We did not have the hall as full of members as I would like to see it, but there are so many of the boys out of town; that accounts for it a little. The Nebraska Telephone Company has got four or five gangs out in the country building new lines. Every member of No. 22 is working at present, except Rombold, and I guess he won't get out this winter, for his foot is too bad to climb any poles.

I hear that No. 22 is adding a few more lights to the circuit.

Bro. Jim Brinkman, general foreman for the T. H. L. Co., won't have a man working for him unless he has a paid up card. I wish all jobs were like that, then these non-union men would have to fall in line.

Very respectfully,

J. C. ROMBOLD.

OUR LOCALS.

Local Union No. 3.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 9, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Judging by the space occupied in the Worker since our strike the brothers out of the city might conclude No. 3 was defunct, but it is not. Though we were defeated in our effort to increase our pay we have in no manner given up our organization. We meet every Thursday night at 604 Market street, and though at present we may not be making history we are transacting the usual order of business.

For the last two months St. Louis has had five accidental deaths to linemen all caused by electric shocks, and a number have been crippled, Harry Merrill losing a leg as a result of a fall of 55 feet. Brother Leeman was the only one of the unfortunates who had his dues paid up and will get a funeral benefit. Brothers, looking at it from a business view, it does not pay to let your dues lapse and be initiated each year. One would not be in that box with his life insurance company.

As regards work here, we are having our share of prosperity. Line work is like other occupations, one is fortunate to have a job these days. The Bell Co. laid off 60 men the 3d inst. The Mo. Lt. Co. and Laclede Power Co. put quite a number of them to work. The Bell has its lines all down in the underground district and so far the Kinlock has not made itself much felt as a competitor. It is employing very few men and does not seem much worried about

getting all its subscribers connected up. The Mo. Co. has more than the usual number of lines, as they are pushed to get their poles and wires off the streets in the underground district by the first of the year. They had no trouble getting liners and I would not advise linemen to come here as the work they are doing will not last long.

Will close by wishing all the brothers a happy Christmas and a more prosperous New Year.

NOVICE.

St. Louis, Nov. 30, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

I will drop you a few lines to inform you of the newly elected officers of Local No. 3, N. B. E. W. They are as follows:

President—Bro. W. M. McCoy, 16 South 17th street.

Financial Secretary—Bro. E. H. Boeck, 3950 Kennerly avenue.

Recording Secretary—J. T. O'Brien, 1011 North Leffingwell avenue.

Yours truly,

J. O'BRIEN,

1011 North Leffingwell avenue.

At the regular meeting of L. U. No. 3, N. B. E. W. of A., held Dec. 1, 1898, a committee was appointed and the following resolutions were reported and unanimously adopted.

Whereas, God in His infinite wisdom has claimed, by death from accident, our worthy and esteemed brother, Thomas M. Leeman, and

Whereas, We bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well, we realize that in his death his family loses a kind, loving husband and father; his fellow workmen and associates a generous, noble-hearted friend, and our Brotherhood a faithful worker and member, whose memory we will cherish with affection and regard; and,

Whereas, the sudden removal of such a brother from our midst leaves a vacancy and shadow that will be deeply felt by all members and friends of our Brotherhood, be it therefore,

Resolved, That we express to the family and relatives our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy in this their hour of affliction, and commend them to our Allwise Father, who will console them in their hour of trial and deep distress. Be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning for thirty days, that these resolutions be spread upon the records of this union, published in our official journal, and an engrossed copy be sent to the family of the deceased Brother.

W. F. MCCOY,

E. H. BOECK,

J. O'BRIEN,

Committee.

Local Union No. 5.

Pittsburg, Dec. 5, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Well, here I come again, to my task, shall I say? No! because it is a pleasant duty, a pleasure which found its first stimulation and help from my "Sainted mother." Ah, but these words seem cold and meaningless, so strange to say them about my mother; but you will pardon me for giving way to them—I had a good mother, and my heart bleeds for those who never knew the kind, tender care which a mother alone can bestow.

There has been a commotion in our vicinity. The little elfin cupid has successfully thrown the mystic veil aside and has caught two of our brothers in the folds of that mysterious net of all sorts—"for better or worse," at least that's what they will get in the future, and judging from the appearance of Brothers John Douglass and G. Y. Beck, "there's only one girl in this world for them." Along with this item I wish to state there has been quite an influx of electrical workers and in due course of time we expect to make them members of Local No. 5. As yet we have heard no complaint from the new residents with reference to our initiation fee of ten dollars, which took effect the first meeting in December, but the following brothers will vouch for that amount when the time arrives:

Nickolas Tappe, open face, stem wind, lineman; Bro. Bogan, plain, armature winder; Bro. Haskins, plain, coil tapper; Bro. Friedman, plain, carbon heater; Bro. Penwell, plain, divester winder.

Dame Rumor says all are doing well. Now we think its about time the "smokes" go round with such a lusty, demonstrative group as they always are at this age. What is the matter with Local No. 5? Simply nothing, with such a prospect in view and lots of hard cash in her coffers. But there is a trouble somewhere and, through the Editor I would like to say, that Local No. 5 was never in a better condition financially, but sorry to record that we have not the presence of the brothers at the meetings, a thing we desire—really as important as the money. It is not numbers and money we want, it is active members, ready to put their shoulder to the belt and throw her over a couple of times. Now, brothers, turn out at each meeting if possible, as you should have as much interest in the union as you have for your daily income, because I know full well that when the union started wages were \$1.75 to \$2.25 and very hard to get at that, but now it is \$2.50 and \$3.00 and over, and now a number of responsible contractors will not hire any but union boys at \$2.50. Is it worth the effort to attend? Certainly, when this result has been brought about by the untiring efforts of those who have stood by the union

through thick and thin, and if you do not receive your \$2.50 or more it is because you are a coward and a softy and have not the backbone to ask for what is yours for the asking. You had better get out of the trade if you are not going to do your little, push and kick. The man who is an honor to his profession must have ability and he will always find it easy sailing. So wake up and get a move on and get in line for the spring, for by that time we will have a working agreement with the various electrical contractors and then, if not in line, you will find your "taters hard to dig." Should you deserve any other fate? No! Or if you have a grudge against any brother come down to the family circle with your voltage up, and blow your fuse, and let it spit and sputter, and see what is the matter. When through, put in a brand new fuse of sufficient carrying capacity to stand any overload that you or any other brother may ever wish to carry, throw on your main switch and watch your machine, i. e., The National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America, the great coming labor organization, and not one or two who do not exactly agree with you. It is the principles of the Order you must stand by; let little matters drop and remember your obligation. Bro. Editor, there is still a little dissatisfaction expressed by some of the brothers who are paid up in full and have not received the Worker. As Press Secretary from the above you will certainly take warning from this epistle, written to those who really need their slats poked a little, as I do not wish to begin on the heads of the departments, but you will kindly watch the Pittsburg list so none are missed who are justly entitled to a copy, as we are awfully particular. The semi-annual election was held, at which time the following officers were duly elected:

President—Harry Haas.

Vice-President—Fred H. Willsden.

Fin. Sec.—F. H. Randolph.

Rec. Sec.—Frank Lenny.

First Inspector—W. A. Sullenberger.

Second Inspector—Nickolas Tappe.

Foreman—F. D. Fitzwilliams.

Trustees—John Haskins and F. D. Malone.

Press Sec.—J. H. Stouffer.

Success to the new officers and may they watch over No. 5 with a zeal that will exceed those who have held the reins before. Mr. Editor, you will say I am long-winded, but please excuse this long letter. I felt that I must say something along this line or explode and hope all will take it kindly and that it may bear fruit to the end which it was written. Wishing you and all the Brotherhood a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

J. H. STAUFFER.

Local Union No. 8.

Toledo, Dec. 2, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Well boys, business is not very prosperous in Toledo at the present time. I will have to be very brief as I do not know what to write about. Bro. Ed. McGrath is on the sick list. He fell from a scaffold, breaking his leg and has been laid up for about a month. An employe of the Traction Co. was killed recently. He was removing an arc lamp from one of the streets and his feet came in contact with a man hole cover, killing him instantly. His name was Charles Weis, formerly a member of No. 8. His fellow workmen probably understood some of the good points to be gained by being a member of the Brotherhood, and we expect some of them to be with us before long.

I will also add No. 8 is heartily in favor of international organization. Wishing all the boys success, I will close.

Yours fraternally,

J. J. DUCK,

Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 9.

Chicago, Dec. 7, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Hoping we will have a new Press Secretary to write the next letter, I will do my best this time and trust he will do better. We had our nomination of officers last meeting night; I will not attempt to give the names of the nominees, first, because there would not be room left in the Worker for other Press Secretaries if they were published; second, there were two or three members who were not nominated and might feel aggrieved to find they have no chance for an office for the coming term. If our inspectors do not have a joyful time distributing ballots on election night, I don't know why.

We still continue to go upward; there is hardly a meeting night goes by that there is not one or more applications for membership presented. There has been a large amount of work done here in the past year and most everybody who came here has found work. We had an increase of six new members last meeting from No. 10.

There has been a great deal of discussion lately in regard to the sick benefit clause in our by-laws; as they now read a member can draw \$120 in one year as sick benefits, which is a large amount, considering the small amount charged as dues. No. 9 has been remarkably unfortunate in having a great many members sick or disabled, in the past year. There has been paid out of our treasury as benefits about \$700; we have had two deaths in the past year, but owing to not having been in fellowship long enough to be entitled to the death benefit, the burden of all the expenses fell upon our local. The average accident insurance company does not care

to have anything to do with linemen who handle live wires, and when they do insure you their rate is generally about \$21.00 a year for \$1,000 in case of death and \$10.00 a week in case of disability. Now, if you add to this an insurance of the same amount in case of sickness, and they will charge you not less than \$35.00 a year, you pay into the Brotherhood \$7.20 a year and receive a paper that is worth \$1.00, which leaves \$6.20 for which you are insured for \$100 in case of death and \$5.00 a week in case of sickness or disability; now, if you look at the Brotherhood simply as an insurance company you can readily see you are getting cheaper rates of insurance than the average life insurance company will give you; it is not necessary for me to mention the other benefits to be derived by being a member of the Brotherhood, for any man who is old enough to work at line-work should have sense enough to know that much without being told.

Work is still quite plentiful here and promises to last until after the holidays. The Edison Light Co. and the Chicago Telephone Co. are doing a great deal of work, the City Ry. have taken down their State st. and Wabash ave. lines and are trying to get a permit to put them up again. As they generally get whatever they ask for, it is expected they will soon be at work putting both lines in running order again.

J. E. POLING,

Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 10.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 6, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

As the first of the month is here again and I cannot speak my little piece so that all the brothers can hear me, I suppose the next best thing to do is to write, so here goes from No. 10, the hustlers. I believe we ought to have that name at present, anyway, for, not many months since, we could hardly get enough lights in the circuit to constitute a quorum, but now we have sixty-one lights all told, and our F.S. informed me that all tested full candle power up to December 1st. We have an average attendance of more than thirty. Following is a sample of the way we do business, and we think it will prove that "we are full of business."

November 14th we had a rousing open meeting, but had to shut off the current in time to add seven new lights to the circuit and repair two old ones.

November 21st, thirty-seven lights O. K., with all officers in their respective places, and one more for the "wire-fixers," seven new lights to connect up and two to repair, which makes fifty-six lights in the circuit.

November 28th, two new lights added to the circuit and two repaired. Everything is running smooth. More than thirty members were in attendance and a lively union spirit was manifested. As is

usual in this profession some will come and some will go, but our attendance has been good for some time past.

I think that all of our members are working at present, and those of us that are working for the new Telephone Company are getting \$2.25 for nine hours, as per yearly contract signed by the Directors of the company. The work here is progressing nicely, and when completed this will surely be a telephone plant to be proud of.

A word to the brothers who are writing from time to time on the different issues of the day that interest, and should deeply interest the laboring public, namely, single tax, municipal ownership, the impositions of monopoly on the public, the way we can, as a laboring public, right these great wrongs, etc., and to these writers let me say your letters are good. Keep it up. Talk organized labor against organized capital to all classes of labor, and when you come across a man that hasn't sense enough to know his and his fellow-workman's rights, tell him where he is at, and let not only those who write for our paper talk and write, but let everyone that calls himself a brother do all in his power to bring about a better state of affairs for the laboring masses. Do men know the meaning of monarchical government, and do you want it here in Free America? If not, stick up for our rights, and if necessary fight to keep home and loved ones free from the grasp of bloated and selfish monopoly. I am glad to say that organized labor is on the right road, and to all classes of labor let us urge organization.

A new charter is expected here next Tuesday, December 6th, for ground men and linemen and wiremen's helpers. I will speak of this in another letter, as this is nearly enough scratching for one time.

Brace up, brothers, and let us fill the Worker with good letters from every union. One letter a month surely will not take much of our time. Let us all write.

Very Respectfully,

E. E. BAUMAN,

Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 12.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 12, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

I suppose you think it is very strange that you have not heard from us, but the truth of the matter is that we have been so busy fighting our cause we have had no time to write. To give you a history of No. 12: Starting three months ago with only twenty members we have assumed the wonderful growth of 300 members in good standing, equally divided as to classes of the trade, namely, wiremen, helpers and apprentices, and as intelligent and gentlemanly a body of men as one can find in the entire country, and, what is better, they still continue to come at the rate of

from four to thirty-three each week, which indicates our lowest and highest number initiated at any one meeting, so you see our prospects for a large membership are very good. As to what we are doing we have become affiliated with the Brooklyn Central Labor Union, having seated our delegates. We have also gained a foothold in New York city, that stronghold of No. 3, but not without a fight, and a fight which we are still waging. Well, we were first attacked, and we simply struck back, and it will not be long before we will land on No. 3's solar plexus, and you know what that means. Why, just think, we were charged with having in our organization nothing but delinquent members of No. 3, and that we were all scabs. Well, the fact of the matter is that out of our entire membership not more than thirty were ever in No. 3, and they dropped out on account of No. 3's unjust system of fines. As regards the term scabs, which they have applied to us, it is most ridiculous. From the first we have been abused by them, and at last have decided to go on record as being out to protect our own and to strike back when attacked. Well, the contractors gave us our chance in this manner, as I will explain. For one year No. 3 has been pounding unjustly the Elevator Constructors' Union No. 1 of New York City, they, No. 3, claiming everything in sight, as usual. In the case of the Syndicate building they started the usual foul tactics, and were the cause of a general strike. We were appealed to to put our men on, but refused to do so until the strike was declared lost, and all the other trades had gone back to work. We were then again offered the work, and we accepted it, and to-day have fifteen of our men at work on the building at the union scale of wages and hours, and expect to put on more shortly. We are also working No. 12's men in several other shops of New York city. I will also state the Syndicate building is the largest building in the city, being 32 stories high. So you see that we are up and out for business, and are getting it, too, and then again we are affiliated with a national body, the N. B. E. W. of A., while they are not affiliated with any national body, and at the same time attempt to be the trade dictators of New York City. I fear that their power has been broken and that a new factor has risen, which will be much more just to the laboring man as well as the contractors.

We thank Local No. 30 for their kind wishes, and hope that we shall, by our future acts, merit the same. The outlook for the winter seems to be very promising, and all indications point to an era of prosperity for the trade. On the 25th of this month we hold our first reception and entertainment, which is designed, of course, for the benefit of our treasury, and as we

consider ourselves to be pretty warm people, you can depend upon it that it will be a red-hot affair.

I think now, Dear Brothers, that I have written you a fairly long letter, stating pretty clearly where we stand, and in closing will state that we shall be pleased to receive any of the brothers as visitors at any time at our headquarters, 407 Bridge St., Brooklyn, N. Y. City.

Yours fraternally,
N. F. ADAMS,
Press Sec'y.

Local Union No. 17.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 4, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Another month has rolled by and it is time to write to the Journal. Brothers, did you ever stop to think that this publication is supported entirely by electrical workers and is read almost exclusively by the boys who climb the poles, who wire the buildings, who trim the lamps, who tend the dynamos, and others who work at our craft in the cities from Boston to San Francisco, and they expect this paper to keep them informed of the condition of work in different sections of this vast country. I think what Bro. Sherman said the other month in the editorial column is right, that every union should insist that their Press Sec. have a letter in the Worker every month.

Our big, genial Bro. James Brennan, has recovered from his serious illness; we were a little afraid we would lose him, but he says we can't lose him, and that they can't kill him with an ax.

On January 19, 1899, we will give our grand ball and electrical illumination at German Salesmen's hall, and we cordially invite members of other locals in nearby cities to attend, or in distant cities, either, if they can conveniently come, and we will take care of you and give you the best time of your life; remember the date.

We have moved to a new hall, the proprietor of the old place objected to our having boxing contests, etc., in his building, so we are now located in Bismarck hall, corner of Monroe and Farmer streets, one of the finest meeting places in the city, where we will welcome all visiting brothers.

No. 17 has indorsed the proposition mentioned in the Worker last month, of extending the Brotherhood over Canada and changing our title from National to International Brotherhood. This course seems imperative for the protection of the border cities from the influx of the Canadian electrical workmen, who are dazzled by the wages given in the American cities, which are a great deal higher than in Canada, and we consider that if we unionize the cities over there it will only be a matter of time when they will be drawing comparatively as good wages as are paid in the States, and in that way we will prevent this constant menace to our positions and to our wages.

Detroit was visited on November 4th by one of the blizzards that we sometimes have up here in the northland, and it will be sometime before things are straightened up again; men were scarce, and the companies had to send to surrounding cities for linemen, and they and the Detroit boys have been on the keen jump ever since. The storm was the worst we have had in thirteen years. Poles and lines were simply torn to pieces for miles; it was a good thing for linemen. "It is an ill wind that blows no one good."

Electron, the press secretary, threw some hot shot last month at locals that did not respond to No. 3's appeal for aid at the time of their strike. We were very sorry they were defeated, for they gave the corporations a game battle, the gamest in the history of the Brotherhood, and I will assure them that we would have helped if it had been possible; but on account of our own strike of over two months duration we simply could not do it. We were down to hard pan, and for this reason I hope No. 3 will throw the mantle of forgiveness over No. 17.

The editor's gentle, seal-brown roast on some of the financial secretaries in last month's Worker was good, and deserved in a great many cases, but we know that it does not apply to our own financial secretary, Bro. Phil Andrich, for he certainly is the right man in the right place, faithful, and competent in the highest degree. He handles the long green galore, and never makes a mistake of a cent in a year, know there are one or two "kickers" who have found fault with him, but there are some men who always find fault, and are not happy when they ought to be thankful that they are not hanged, and I am pleased to state that No. 17 has very few of what you would call "chronic kickers."

The supreme court of Michigan handed down a decision a few days ago on the boycott question, and the corporations were chucking each other in the ribs and thought they had the unions dead; but they found it was the liveliest corpse that ever broke out of a morgue, and chased the coroner around the block, the decision contradicts itself. One part practically annuls the other parts, and it is just as good a thing as we want. One of our constitutional rights was involved, and no matter what way the decision went we would have gone on just the same in the matter of the boycott; the union may have faults, but lack of courage is not one of them.

I am happy to state that we are progressing, and that all the union boys are working, while some non-unionists were walking around on their uppers before the recent storm. They had a chance to join the union, but they always had excuses, the same chestnuts, so old that the worms had left them ten years ago. How these non-union cusses do whine and bellow when

they tell you their troubles, they put me in mind of nothing so much as the braying of an asthmatic jack ass; if I had my way I would shut them up in jail for a year and feed them nothing but boarding-house hash, then maybe they would be good.

It has always been a matter of great wonder to me why the millionaires and wealthy classes look down on the working people and use them as they do in some cases and why some workmen stand it. I swear by the Eternal, I would not stand oppression from an employer a minute, I would perish from the face of the earth before I would humble to any man, and I know lots of men who are the same, and they are union men you may be sure. I say, no matter if a person carries the hod, or whether he peddles hot wiener wursts for a living, "a man is a man for a' that." A hundred years from now the dust of the millionaire will mingle with that of the beggar; old earth, the last mother of us all, is the great leveler; we can be manly men though be not rich.

I see by the papers that the owners of the coal mines at Vinden, Illinois, live in Chicago. It would be fine if some members of No. 9 could grab them and shut off their wind for a while. I suppose those mine-owners expect to go to heaven and be measured up for a suit of angelic pen-feathers, but they will never get there, for to imagine that the devil won't get them would bankrupt the imagination.

Before I close I want to congratulate our editor on the style in which he gets out the Worker, published as it is, for the entertainment and instruction of the men who do the work in the electric field, I consider it a trade journal of the first class. Smooth goods is Bro. Sherman, say I.

As this is my last letter, I have made it rather long. The election of officers will take place before the next issue, you will therefore hear from a new press secretary next month, and now, wish you God-speed, dear reader, and brother, I will drop my tired arm and rest.

DAN E. ELLSWORTH,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 18.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 13, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Fearing I am late for this month's edition I had better make my letter short. No. 18 is still increasing in membership, although we lost seven members last month. They took transfer cards to other unions out of town. No. 18 gave its sixth annual ball at Casino Hall, November 2d, which was a grand success. The electrical display was magnificent. There were over 600 red, white and blue incandescent lamps, six arc lamps and two search lights. We had touch buttons, which played tunes and different toned bells attached. We

don't know how we stand financially, as the boys are slowly turning in money and tickets. I will close for this time.

Respectfully yours,

H. WATROUS,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 19.

Atchison, Kans., Dec. 7, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Brothers, hoist your lids to No. 19, the first and only local in the breezy sunflower state of Kansas, the home of sockless Jerry S. and the fiery-tongued John J. I.

While No. 19 is yet an infant and its membership few, we have hopes in the near future, through the untiring efforts of our president, F. J. Roth (old war horse), to outstrip some of our older locals. Work here has been quite plentiful, owing to the installation of a new telephone exchange in opposition to the Bell, and we have hopes of work lasting until spring. I would respectfully state, though, that this is no bid for all the idle men to flock this way, as there are plenty of linemen here to do everything.

Since the organization of No. 19 we have been able to place five men with the Leavenworth Telephone Co. at \$2.50 per day, an increase of 25 cts. We have also succeeded in increasing the new tel. linemen here 15 cts. a day, making it \$2.40, and still some contend there is nothing in unionism.

The Atchison Ry. Lt. and P. Co., of which Bro. Roth is foreman, has eight men in No. 19, and for the last few years has employed only union men. Our foreman, Bro. J. A. Hicks has, since his marriage, two weeks ago, gotten entirely over his notions about riding in rubber-tired hacks, and takes to splitting kindling wood quite naturally.

Owing to a swelling of his tonsils, Bro. Wickersham, R. S., was unable to have his picture taken for this issue. Bro. E. Wentworth, since becoming a papa, speaks of his arc lamps in a very paternal way, calling them his babies, etc.

Bro. R. C. Easton, F. S., locally known as "Pink Tea," between his love affairs and keeping the brothers straight on the books, has more trouble than a monkey with two tails.

Vice-President Sweeney would have had our charter framed, but varnished it with molasses and has been busy for the last week waiting for it to dry.

Now, if there is a roast coming to me, I will wait until my successor is elected.

We meet every Tuesday at 8 P. M., at 112 So. 5th street, and would be glad to have any brother passing this way to drop in.

Fraternally yours,

E. J. M.,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 22.

Omaha, Nov. 13, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Being chosen press secretary, or reporter, I have been derelict in my duty, but as it is a task for me to wield the quill I trust I will be pardoned for same.

President Stedman, of No. 22, has taken unto himself a partner for life. Success, Lauson.

The Trans-Mississippi Exposition is over and a look of desolation and desertion o'erspreads the grounds.

The boys are all feeling pretty good for this time of the year, as they have saved enough of their filthy lucre to tide them over the cold and dreary days of winter should they meet with the usual summons of "well, boys, we will have to reduce our forces," but work seems to hold up good, and prospects are bright for all winter.

Bro. Paul Weyers is running the lights at the Boyd Theater.

Bro. Harry Wheeler is engaged in reconstructing the Tel. Exchange at Plattsmouth, Neb.

As ye representative was wending his way to his home one evening not long ago he happened to overhear the following conversation between a couple of rural folk: "Say, Bill, did you see that gold-durned house going down the street with lights all light up?" "Why, Zeke," said the other, being somewhat accustomed to the trolley car, "that was a street car run by electricity." "Well, I'll be gol-squashed," said Zeke, "them gol-durned fellers will burn up the world yit with that stuff you call 'lectricity.'"

Bro. Chris Rombold is getting along very nicely since his release from the hospital. Hope he will continue to improve.

I will endeavor to write something about a giant generator used by the street railway people next month, and as there is a good field in Omaha for the electrical student it will be worth one's while to attempt to give light articles on each apparatus used by the different companies operating here.

More anon,
"CY PERKINS."

Local Union No. 31.

Anaconda, Montana, Nov. 28, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Dear Sir—As I let one month go by without our local being represented in the Worker, it behooves me to get a move on or I will be classed as a poor connection in the P. S. circuit.

Well, Thanksgiving has come and gone and found all the boys with a job on their hands, much to our surprise, for it looked several weeks ago as though the work was going to slack off, but Bro. Sullivan is a dandy on digging up work.

We have been doing a good deal of re-

building this summer and fall, and just finished moving the car barns to a new location. All this represents work, and that is what we are all looking for.

What is the matter with the P. S. of 65? He throws a pretty good quill when he starts, but we haven't heard from him for some time. Come now De M, cut in and keep up the good work.

We have added three or four new members since you last heard from me, and have several applications to be considered. Let the good work go on, for we have a good big hall to meet in and can accommodate all electrical workers whose heart is in the right place.

Yours truly,
D. H. JOHN.

Local Union No. 32.

Lima, O., Dec. 8, 1898.

Editor Electric Worker:

We have got together at last, and received our charter November 26th.

The following officers were elected: President, Geo. Moore; vice-president, L. J. Barber; financial secretary and treasurer, Wm. R. Kraus. Brothers R. Moore, W. Holmes and C. H. Lee will do the argufying at Trades Labor Council. (How about it, Judge?)

We are flooded with work; don't know whether it will stay very long. We had a good sleet storm Sunday, and it didn't do a thing to these strings around here.

Bro. Worline is out for the Postal.

The Western Union had a good sized gang here on the Pennsylvania Railroad, picking up the old Merchants' and Bankers' line, what is left of it.

The City Telephone Company suffered the worst; nearly everything down.

The Judge just blew the fuse and I am in the dark. Stay with it, Judge, till quit.

CYCLONE.

Local Union No. 35.

Boston, Dec. 8, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Here's once more from Local 35, this being last writing of this year. We are progressing as usual, membership rolling up each meeting. Work here, on account of the storm last week, made a great demand for linemen and I know of a dozen different corporations wanting linemen. Of course it was for short jobs. The Postal and W. W. Telegraph and Long Distance suffered the most; also understand the Boston Fire Alarm are still crippled. So its an ill wind that don't blow good for some one—not referring to the loss of the Portland steamship.

We got our ball committee appointed and they are hustling and making a good showing, having engaged the Paul Revere hall and making all necessary arrangements, and it now lays in the hands

of brothers of local 35 for a financial success. We hope all brothers will take hold and assist the committees to dispose of the tickets. Next writing the ball will be over and press secretary will be able to state the affairs of the above.

We had nominations for office last night and hope those selected will serve as well as those serving at present. We had the delegates of shoe strikers of Marlboro visit us at our meeting, they stating their grievances; hope they will succeed in getting their demands, they being financially embarrassed. We donated \$10.00 for their assistance, our local is always ready with assistance for aiding fellow workers. Did you read of what the working people did there? The Socialist Labor party elected a mayor, five aldermen and seven councilmen; that shows where the power is. How will the shoe and other corporations take it? This is a great victory and shows we will be in power yet. We have a few brothers on the sick list, and are reported doing well.

Yours,
T. R. MELVILLE,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 36.

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 27, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

It may be a little late in the year to again hear from us, but we believe in the motto, "Better late than never." Glad to say we are still alive and kicking. Brothers, do not get heart disease if you see a few lines from Local No. 36 every month hereafter. All the boys are more or less accustomed to shocks, so I guess they will be able to stand it. We are slowly gathering the electrical workers into the fold and hope to make Sacramento a strictly union town electrically. We are affiliated with the Federated Trades and, through their influence, gained a number of new members. We firmly believe that we have the good will of all the companies. The Capital Telephone Co. paid the initiation fee for several of the new members.

Bro. Jno. Marsh was called to New York on account of the death of his father. He will probably drop the electrical business and take a turn on his own hook. We lose in him a good union man and an ardent worker. May he be happy and prosper in his new vocation.

Our last meeting was especially well attended, probably due to the fact that a number of invitations had been issued to the superintendents and foremen of the different companies to give us a call at our hall. They all responded. After meeting refreshments were served. Between playing cards and a few musical numbers, the time passed so rapidly that some of the boys missed the last car home. This was our first attempt in this line and proved to be a perfect success.

In a future letter I will endeavor to give

some data, etc., about some of our high potential transmission lines.

Will pull the plugs on the 11,000 for this time. Wishing all locals continued success, I remain,

Fraternally yours,
C. V. SCHNEIDER.

Local Union No. 38.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 7, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Since my last letter Local No. 38 has made rapid strides to the front. Our increase of initiation fee does not stop them. They all want to get in out of the cold. We received four applications the last meeting night, December 6th, so No. 38 is still in the field and will continue to do business at the old stand.

Occasionally some brother from foreign locals happens along this way and sojourns with us awhile, then drops along the line to wider fields of work. We like to meet him if only for a little while. It is a good thing for a man when away from home to meet those of his own craft. And right here I wish to say, for the benefit of a certain class of men (will of the wisp) who hitherto have followed different vocations in life's whirl, that it is a great thing to let well enough alone. Stay in your line that you have made a livelihood at. It is a prevalent, but an entirely erroneous idea that an electrical worker's path is strewn with offers of plenty of work, or his pockets lined with the almighty dollar. On the other hand he has got to hustle for what he gets, and when a would-be workman strikes a job by misrepresenting his ability it not only makes him small in the estimation of the employer or foreman, but has hurt good and competent men. And then again how often do we hear of competent men getting mixed up with the hot stuff, much to his own disadvantage and personal feelings, and in some instances resulting in demise. If the influx of incompetent men doesn't stop demise will certainly increase, and a heavily charged wire is nothing for amateurs and inquisitive people to fool with. Brothers, this little note came from experience in the course of my journeying from different climes.

I promised to give an account of our annual ball. Well, I have another one to mention, Local No. 80.

The annual ball of No. 38 was held on Thanksgiving eve at the Army and Navy hall. The hall was crowded with friends of Local 38 and 80. Everybody had a good time. The hall was draped with the national flag and red, white and blue bunting. The electrical display explained itself. The orchestra on the stage was placed behind a bank of palms and other flowers, while over them hung a large American flag, 10x6 feet, with 300 lamps burning. The circuits were connected upon a commutator switch, so as

to produce a wavy effect. This piece of work seemed to hold the crowd spell-bound when the light was switched on. Our welcome sign was connected the same way. We also had our emblem, N. B. E. W. No. 38, worked out in lamps. The different numbers on the programme were also displayed in electrical effects from the stage. The hall was ventilated by ceiling fans and bizz fans around the hall at different places. We had all kinds of electrical effects in the hall, but it would take too much space to mention them all. We had 550 lights in our own display besides the private illumination of the hall. Much praise is due the committee on arrangements. Bro. Jack Albrecht had charge of the wiring. Bro. Jack Cooligan came 30 miles to help out on the work. Bros. O'Neil and Blessing are going on the road as champion ticket-takers; they are wise guys. Bro. O'Neil is six feet six and Mat Blessing five feet with his shoes on. They had charge of the door and did good service, the only trouble they were a little stingy with the pass-out checks. They would let no person pass unless he had the regulation ticket. The following brothers had charge of the arrangements: Bros. C. J. Keifer, chairman; C. Malloy, E. Curtis, George Malm, J. Jamison, A. Sheffield, J. Albrecht and J. Cooligan. The whole of Local No. 38 was the general reception committee.

Local No. 80 held its annual ball on December 6th at Merrill's hall on Pearl street on the west side. The members of Local No. 38 attended and took charge of the hall for Local No. 80. Bro. O'Neil had charge of the door. Bros. G. Malm and E. Curtis sold tickets. Bros. Dawson and Sheffield, of Local No. 38, looked after the general work of the hall and helped every one to have a good time. Bro. Jamison had charge of the floor, and from all accounts he had everyone dancing that could dance. These two balls are the talk of the city every season. They are well patronized. The people get prepared for them early in the season.

Trade here is fair, all members working. The inside men are all busy at present. They have all got something to do. The shop men are all working. They have about the same run of work all the time. The outside men are moving along nicely.

This city was visited by a good old-fashioned storm Sunday and Monday morning, December 4th and 5th. The telegraph and telephone companies were heavy losers. The Postal had lots of lines down. West of here three lines were on the ground for miles. Our treasurer, Ira Masnie, took out a gang on Monday, and everyone of them had a card from No. 38 and two from No. 10. The price was \$3.50 and expenses. There were others sent out, but they were paid \$2.50. The boys with the card had the first call, so be on

the lookout all of the wandering brothers. Come with your card and you will be O. K. The present outline of work this winter is fair. Line work is not booming, for all brothers are working. We make it a point to try and keep our own members working as much as possible.

Local No. 38 has taken action in regard to extending our field of working. That is, that the subject be taken up and discussed in different locals and have them pass these sentiments: At the next convention the Executive Board take steps to bring the electrical workers of Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, London and other cities in the Dominion of Canada into our Brotherhood, and that the name be changed to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, as the field for electrical work is a large one there. There are lots of American firms getting large contracts in that country, and if we could get them in line we could have a greater prestige on all different branches of the trade. Our Recording Secretary has been instructed to forward you a copy of the resolutions.

Would like to hear from Bro. P. Jacobs of No. 56. We have some of their members up here. Send up the news Pete, and I will not tell about you and Old Rastus and the L—anestar. Say, Pete, Rastus spoke of the boys before he died. He spoke for you.

Hopes for the future, I remain

Yours respectfully,

GEO. H. GLEASON,

Press Sec.

Local Union No. 40.

St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 7, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

This issue of the Worker finds all the brothers at work and, as this is generally the dull season, with a severe winter on hand, stopping work on the new buildings in course of erection as well as other outside work, it points to a busy and prosperous spring, with plenty of work for everybody.

As news is scarce at present will not occupy much space in the Worker, giving the new press secretary a chance to get in a rousing letter for the new year. The brothers who have missed the last few Fridays' meetings missed a rare treat by not hearing Bro. Mottor's lectures. George Norris, a lineman working for The Light, Heat and Power Co., was severely burned through the palms of both hands while making connection to a converter on an alternating circuit, receiving 1,150 volts through his body. It is a miracle that he is alive. When taken from the pole he was perfectly rational. As the burns are clear to the bones it is thought he will lose one or both of his hands. He was recently promoted from a ground man to climbing. He doesn't belong to the Brotherhood. As the last meeting night in this month is

election of officers, every brother should make it a point to attend and select officers who will attend regularly and look after the welfare of the union. As the officers of the closing year of 1898 did their duty and Local No. 40 had a prosperous year, it is to be hoped the brothers will select as good timber if not better. There is plenty of it available from the ranks of our local.

The new year has rolled around; it is time to turn over a new leaf in life's book. Every brother should inscribe on the new page in making up his calendar for the year, every Friday reserved for attending No. 40 meetings.

The Fin. Sec. requests that all the brothers settle for '98 so that there will be no back numbers in starting the new year.

"76"

Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 41.

Buffalo, Dec. 11, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Letter from local 41 last month was conspicuous in the Worker by its absence, this is not to say that it was missed by your readers, only that it broke the chain of numbers. Election matters consumed too much of my time previous to election day and disappointment at the result for several days after, making it too late when I finally settled down to my accustomed state of mind to get it to you in time for publication.

Business here for inside workers is good at the present writing, and prospects encouraging for a continuation. All hands are at work. We continue to look after them and see all have a card; three new members being added to our roll last meeting. We have nearly all and expect soon to have all that are hanging back, and I wish to say to those who have been considering and not made up their minds that we will give them until January 1st, to do so at the old rate, after that date we double the price of initiation, or in other words, we make our initiation fee \$26.80 for journeymen and \$14.30 for helpers, this of course includes three months dues.

Brother Thomas Dugan was severely injured last week by being crushed between a pole and a heavy flour wagon. Brother Dugan was climbing the pole as the wagon turned the corner and slid against the pole. Bro. Dugan's injuries consist of broken ribs and painful bruises and it will be some time before he can return to duty. On the following day his wife presented him with a bouncing son of 14 pounds, to keep him company while confined to his home.

The Postal is laying a long line of conduit and filling it with cables to bury their main lines, etc. This is the second job of the kind done by this company in the past year and when completed will put their line in fine shape within the busy part of the city.

Mr. W. H. Kelly has been appointed electrical engineer for the Buffalo office of the Postal Cable Co. All electrical apparatus, engines, wiring, etc., of the dynamo plant being placed under his supervision.

We extend our sympathy to the husky guys of Local 45 who are obliged to follow the country roads for breaks and crosses in this good old fashioned winter weather, or ride in a caboose with their heads hanging over the sill looking for trouble while the gentle icicle pelts their face until it looks like a piece of raw beef. Poor fellows! How they must envy the life of an inside worker.

For the past six months Local 41 has devoted half an hour at its regular meetings to debates and interchange of ideas on electrical matters, thus increasing the knowledge of those not thoroughly conversant with the work of the craft. We now propose to have two open meetings monthly at which the best electricians of the city will lecture and reply to any questions asked. The value of these lectures to our brethren cannot be overestimated and we invite all electrical workers to attend, promising them a pleasant and profitable evening. This invitation is not only extended to the members, but to those who have not joined with us, including persons engaged in other pursuits. We intend to diffuse as well as acquire knowledge.

I call the attention of all members to the fact that in this month the candidates for office are nominated for election at the last meeting in the month and I hope they will attend the meetings and talk over the fitness of the different candidates before that time and not absent themselves and threaten to draw out because so and so is nominated or elected. If they have anything to say let them say it at the meeting. It is not right that a certain few should be perpetual officer holders, not just to them or to the order. We have plenty of men with good common sense who are a little bashful, which would wear off when once they had put on the harness and it is such men we want in office to relieve those who have served too long at the expense of their personal comfort.

Fraternally Yours,
W. H. KELLY,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 44.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 10, '98.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Local No. 44 gave its sixth annual ball November 21st, and to say it was a success would be putting it mild. The electrical display was very fine. This local has convinced the outside world that electrical workers are not the toughs some would make us out. There is no other organization in this or any other city that could give a better dance than the electrical workers.

Work is very fair in this city at the present time, all brothers working and prospects very good.

We are pleased to see the Press Secretaries all over the country taking more interest in their locals and sending in communications each month. The election of officers takes place this month. Let us hope each local will select good men, and that the year 1899 will be the banner year of this Brotherhood. I am pleased to know we have a good strong local in Greater New York, as this means a great good to this Brotherhood. It means a card is as good on Manhattan Island as anywhere. It means that a certain few men in that place are not dictators to all electric workers. Let us hope it means the disruption of the ring-rule of a local organization in that city. Let us hope it will open the eyes of a great many men who belong to the local body, and that they will get over where they belong in the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Wishing you and all members of the Brotherhood a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

I am truly,
AMPERE.

Local Union No. 46.

Lowell, Mass., Dec. 2, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Again my duty calls me to send a line to the Worker. I must report electrical work in Lowell very quiet. Although we had a bad storm a few days ago, it did little harm to the wires in and around town. All the boys are working at present, but it looks as though we are going to have a poor winter.

Well, No. 46 did her returned brothers and soldiers justice on November 9th. We held forth at our quarters, 202 Merrimac street, about 40 strong. We had a local entertainment and supper. Bros. Miller and Savage told us all about Porto Rico and the rough way the natives lived there and of the hard times they went through getting there. They were seventeen days on board ship with seven days' rations; then Bro. Cole told us about his trip up the Nile in 1885, with the British army, and how the Arabs whooped down on them and almost wiped them out of existence; then we enjoyed two hours dancing with our wives and best girls; supper came next in order. Supper over, Bro. Smith's string band and some of the best local talent in Lowell made 46 the merriest crowd you ever saw. I wish to say something in regard to an inspector of wires. Last July our city government was about to appoint one of the political gang to the office of inspector on wires, so No. 46 brought the matter before the Central Labor union. The result was a committee of five was appointed who waited upon our

City Fathers. The whole thing seemed to have been forgotten until last week the mayor appointed a board of examiners composed of three. Now what looks funny to me, one of these men is in the employ of the Lowell street R. R. Co., and has no use for a labor union, but No. 46 will have at least two men who will have as a good a show as any one, provided everything is conducted squarely.

Well, Mike, what time is it? Oh, yes; Bro. Cole's bazaar come off in favor of you all right. Bro. H. is Papa now and whiskers is the new name for the trimmer, and then the man who says you ain't the only one that can write to the worker! I am waiting for him to write me. Brothers, here's to all, wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

BARRETT,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 56.

Erie, Pa., Dec. 3, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

As it is about a quarter past December, I have got my lunch hook grappled on to the pen and commenced to transmit a few quarts of my electrical ink to the Electrical Worker.

First, Jim Rust is out of a job. It is the first time in eleven days. Jim is just as comical as ever. Several of the boys have gone to Newcastle, Pa., to work for the new phone company. The officials of the Edison Electric Co. kinder got mad or something the other day, because the telephone company's had plastered their poles all over with brackets and wires, and so Bro. Cholly Strong (president of the light company) started his up and down men out to see how fast they could cut down phone wires, and then the phone men started out to see how fast they could string them up on other poles. Oh! we have a right smart lot of fun here in Erie.

There is an awful mess of wire-fixers in northeast Pa. They get up early in the morning and work until the second school bell rings, and as soon as school is out they go right to work and work until the electric lights are turned on, and then they quit of course, for you know it isn't very safe to get around them're black-covered wires.

One of the fellows (I guess he was the assistant foreman's straw boss) told me as soon as they got their phone wires all up they were going to tension them both ways, and I told him I thought it would make the line look very pretty. Their office pole, to which their wires all dead-end on, is double armed, and it was necessary to use a nine-inch bolt to reach through the arms and top of the pole, and they had to be very careful in tightening up the bolts for fear of squeezing the top of the pole off.

Well, if that Bro. Col. Hart of ours isn't

a daisy! He has done gone and got spliced. Bro. Hart has the sympathy of all the brothers of 56, as they are nearly all married men, and we wish him good luck and happiness. I guess this will settle the annoyance of marriages in 56, unless Bro. Miller wants to take the degree. He acts a little wapakana, and I think he is getting matrimonically grounded. But that hasn't anything to do with his being a good fellow, only he is too busy to attend the meetings.

If any of the brothers of 56 have time to read the Worker and see this letter I would like to say that we meet in C. L. U. Hall, corner of 5th and State sts., on the 1st, 3d and 5th Wednesday of each month, and that Harry Kistner is financial secretary, and lives at the corner of 7th and Holland sts.

Bro. Geives is back at work again; he is not doing much climbing yet, as his arm is not very strong.

Bro. Hicks has returned from Warren, Pa., and is working for the Mutual Phone Co. Everybody is working at present and there seems to be work enough to last all winter.

No. 56 gave a dance on Nov. 9th, which promised to be a howling success, but as the wind and rain was howling that night we did not make money enough to buy out the W. U., although those who had nerve enough to venture out enjoyed themselves hugely, or words to that effect.

I was out to see a brother last Sunday afternoon and took supper with him. We had smear case and molasses, horseradish and ice cream and liver pudding, and I haven't quite come too yet, but Dock says if I eat enough vaseline to keep the smear case from coming in contact with the liver pudding I will be all right by pay day. It's bad enough to mix drinks, but when you get mixtures like this it's all off.

Brothers, there is plenty of news in Erie to write about, and a good many things about different kinds of work which is being done that I would like to explain, which I am sure would be interesting to all, but as I must go to bed to save the gas, I will ring off and send this valuable letter to Bro. Sherman.

Yours as I am,

L. E. C.,

Rec. Sec.

Local Union No. 60.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 1, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Well, brothers, I will not try your patience any longer than possible this time, this town is practically dead and there is no news to amount to anything that I could scarce up for you.

No. 60 has at last succeeded in getting the Dubinski Electrical Co., to adopt the eight hour system. It would do you good to see the happy smile on four or five of the brothers' faces as they leave this shop

for home at five o'clock in the evenings. If we could only get the brothers who work for W. G. Schuwirth & Co. to take a little interest in us, and help us some, I believe that we could finally swamp "Humpty Brown" and his gang; it is a shame that "Hay-wire Jackson" be permitted to do work as he does. If the city council were any good they would compel that company to at least put their wires up so that they would not endanger the safety of the public.

It is even reported that the Mutual Elec. Light Co. has a negro trimming arc lamps. Brothers, you well know that it is only one step from a lamp-trimmer to a lineman, and the first thing we know you will see Foreman Jackson stringing wire (hay-wire) through our streets with a gang of "nigger" linemen, while a number of our brothers are out of a job and sparring for coffee, some of them seldom landing, too.

Brothers, it is time for us to wake up and hustle, for it will only be a short time until some other concern will adopt the same tactics that the Mutual has been successfully using so long.

Work here is very slack now but most of the old gang have their same old jobs. There are only three or four brothers out of work, and from all indications I think that we can place them for an X-mas stake any how.

Watch for Pat O'Toole's friend, and see how well he rides that bicycle.

Bro. J. C. Talcott wanted to ride that wheel awful bad. It is no use "Chub," you will have to walk,

Bro. McNemar is a dandy high dice thrower when he shakes for some one else, but when he shakes for himself, he throws a crap every time.

Bro. McElroy deserves credit for hustling chances on our bicycle the way he did, I think he had every man on the I & G. N. R. R. on his list.

What is the matter with Brother Hendricks? He has not been to see us since he returned from Mexico.

Won't "Our Skinny" look fine with a N. B. E. W. button stuck on his coat.

When will the city make the S. A. St. Ry. Co. put up a trolley wire that the people are not afraid will fall on them when driving under it?

Skinney is so proud that we cannot hand him an apple with a pike-pole since he got that button.

Boys, remember the last meeting in December; all come out and give the new local officers a good send off.

F. W.,
Press Sec'y.

Local Union No. 63.

Warren, Pa., Nov. 28, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

It is some time since you heard from No. 63, so I will take it upon myself to act the

part of secretary ex-officio. Our old friend and esteemed brother, Col. Hart, of Erie, has joined the ranks of the Benedicts; in other words, he has taken unto himself a wife, and say, fellows, she's just the finest little woman a woodwalker ever set eyes on. Well of course you all know that birds of a feather flock together and they just make a swell couple. Let us all join in wishing them the very best of happiness in their matrimonial venture. Bro. H. H. Hicks, the man with the phonograph voice, paid us a flying visit over Sunday, but did not stop, we are sorry to say, for the colonel's reception, which was a grand success, the N. B. being well represented in the persons of Bros. Spencer, Gordon and your humble servant. The new telephone have stopped work here till April, owing to inclement weather and work elsewhere. I am sorry to say Bro. Frank Lester is not enjoying very good health just at present and according to the doctors it will take about eighteen months to put him in shape again. He certainly is not looking well and won't give up when he ought to be in bed, but that of course is characteristic of Frank. He don't know when he is knocked out. Say boys, there's a fellow here, agent for the American School of Correspondence, and its fine. Several of the boys have taken courses and all are thoroughly satisfied. Their address is 156 Tremont street. Well, its weating along towards the wee small hours, so I must shut down and retire to the land of Nod.

P. S.—I would like to hear from Bro. Will Hedden, formerly of St. Louis.

Fraternally yours,
R. Y. EDEN.

Local Union No. 68.

Denver, Col., Dec. 4, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Another month has rolled by and soon the year will end, and it becomes my duty to contribute some news to the Worker.

Times are very quiet now in the electrical trade; there are some wiremen idle here now and are likely to be for some time unless something unknown at present should turn up. There are prospects of more wiremen being idle from the present outlook. I am in hopes something will start shortly, as I am among the unemployed.

The Fort Collins Electric Co. of Fort Collins, Col., have put in a Reynolds-Corless engine of 200 H. P. and a Westinghouse alternator of 1000-16-C. P. lamp; the plant has 4000 incandescent and 40 arc lights.

The Cable Ry. Co. has about a dozen cars fitted out with vestibules. These are distributed over various lines. The Tramway Ry. Co. has all cars vestibuled that are in regular use and the motormen are greatly pleased with the new equipment.

The county commissioners, November 30th, granted the right of way to the Den-

ver Power and Irrigating Co. to set poles and string wires along the county roads from the mouth of Platte Canon to the city. This company has a franchise in the city to string wires overhead and underground, and they propose to construct a plant at the mouth of the canon and conduct electrical power to Denver. I understand it is the object to only furnish power, they will undoubtedly commence to build in the near future and should be able to give power very reasonable, as it is to be run by water.

No. 68 has just purchased a black board and proposes to have electrical discussions every meeting; many of the members are interested in it greatly. As the 5th is the first Monday in the month we shall no doubt have a good meeting.

One of the apprentices, C. Rider, belonging to No. 68, had a ladder slip from under him December 2d; he fell on his side. The doctor said no ribs were broken and that he would be around shortly.

Having no more news at hand, shall close, wishing every electrical worker a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

M. J. CURRAN,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 72.

Waco, Tex., Dec. 7, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Will try once more to write a few lines to the Worker, but am afraid it will be short and of little interest to anyone. I think every union should have its name in the Worker every month, if to state nothing more than that we are getting along well, for very often a man gets away from his home local and if he gets his Worker and looks all over it and can't find anything from home he thinks the boys are not trying to do anything, and he gets so he lets his dues run over and the first thing he knows he is in bad standing; then he thinks, "Well, the union don't amount to a d—n, it never did me any good," so just by a little carelessness on the part of the press secretaries we lose what could have been turned into a first-class union man just as well as a backslider. So now, brother secretaries, do your duty and send in a few lines if it is nothing more than to tell what the different companies are doing and what the men are doing, giving their names, for us Texans have lots of friends floating around the country that we would be glad to hear from.

Work is pretty brisk now in the telephone line. The South Western is putting in party lines, two, three and four, and also one-way lines of five or more on a line that is giving us lots of work for the present. The new company has set ten poles for a starter. That is only to hold their charter and I am afraid they are trying to run a bluff, but hope not, for they will have lots of work for everybody. The South West-

ern is to build an office of their own in the near future which will be all underground work. Don't know how soon it will be.

The new electric light plant will soon be completed and in operation. It has had its franchise extended so it can furnish lights to any part of the city. The old company is tocking along in the same old rut, to all appearances. The street cars are running all right and some of the old motormen are running again. Say boys, we are going to have something to eat and smoke next meeting night, so you had better all come. We are going to try to get all of the boys out, as it is election night.

Well, I want to see about a dozen more letters in the Worker for next month than there was last month.

Yours fraternally,

E. P. McBROOM.

FORBES RULED COUNCIL.

No City Father Dared Vote Against Electrical Workers' Ordinance.

Thomas H. Forbes, "fourth grand vice-president of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America," sat by Ald. Stahl's side in the common council last evening, and was the most powerful man in the city hall. Stahl is chairman of the committee on ordinances. When the "fourth grand vice-president" pressed the button, Mr. Stahl moved to place the ordinance for building up Electrical Workers' union on its third reading.

A few aldermen asked questions and raised objections, but no one dared to vote against the ordinance. Whenever a question was asked Stahl would turn to the "fourth grand vice-president" and get his reply. The ordinance was adopted unanimously in spite of Corporation Counsel Flower's advice that the public lighting commission could not be compelled by the council to examine inside wiremen and issue permits. Ald. Coots acknowledged that it would be a good thing to have such permits, but he thought that outside wiremen should undergo an examination also; but the "fourth grand vice-president" wouldn't have it that way and it wasn't done. Forbes sent in the following "roast" on the public lighting commission:

"Before the public lighting commission was organized most of the conditions we complained of did not exist. The stringing of bare grounded wire on the same pole with high potential wire was originated by them with utter disregard to lives of men engaged in that work, until to-day the dangers have become notorious with two deaths directly traceable to the condition of affairs that have grown up under the fostering care and sanction of the public lighting commission. We have petitioned them for redress, but they have not even considered our petitions worthy of an answer.

"In conclusion we wish to say we do not believe the opposition of the public lighting commission to the proposed ordinance is tenable from the fact that they openly and publicly made the assertion that they would oppose the present ordinance or anything else that emanated from the same source, an assertion that we believe clearly demonstrates the true inwardness of their opposition. We therefore do not believe that your honorable body desires to become a party to or indorse the

vindictive spirit of some of the public lighting commissioners in their opposition to labor organizations."

Forbes' communication also states that the proposed shutting out of inside wiremen who cannot pass an examination is for their own good, although no inside wiremen has ever appeared before a council committee and asked for the ordinance. It has been pushed by the Electrical Workers' union, which is made up of outside wiremen.

If the mayor signs the ordinance, the public lighting commission will probably refuse to enforce it, for they believe it unnecessary, and no appropriations have been made to pay the expense. The examinations and permits would cost money, and it has been stated that the provision requiring the separation of wires would, if enforced, lead to the erection of hundreds of new poles in the city, which would cost several thousand dollars. It is desired by the commissioners that two deaths can rightly be charged to the commissioner's method's or policy.

The Chicago Common Council has adopted an ordinance providing for the union label on all municipal work.

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